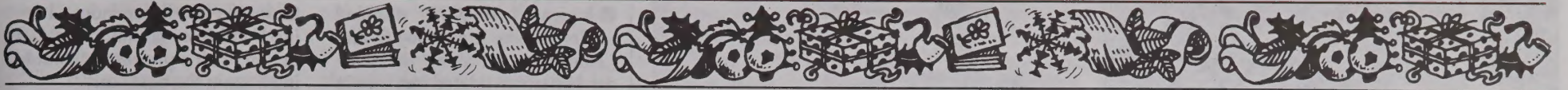


# Disability Now



December *DN* is in selected newsagents in the Greater Manchester area. Welcome to our new readers!

## This month

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**CLASSIFIEDS**



Stepping out: six-year-old Lawrence Chambers, who has cerebral palsy, is the first child to "pass out" from Northfield Institute for conductive education in Birmingham. Pictured with friends Amy Greenwell and Jamie Wilson at his new primary school in Coventry, Lawrence's next goal is to play football. More on conductive education, page 4.

NEWS TEAM INTERNATIONAL

## £100m is "not enough"

The Government has made ten improvements to disabled people's benefits, costing £100 million, but these have been criticised for not going far enough.

Social Security Secretary Tony Newton announced them in the Commons last month.

They include extending mobility allowance to deaf/blind people and increasing the premium to 20,000 families with disabled children on means-tested benefits from £6.50 to £15.40.

The changes will improve the incomes of around 500,000 people.

But Mr Newton has still given no definite timetable for the wider reforms of all disabled people's benefits.

"I intend to come forward within the next few months - I hope before the turn of the year - with proposals to improve the

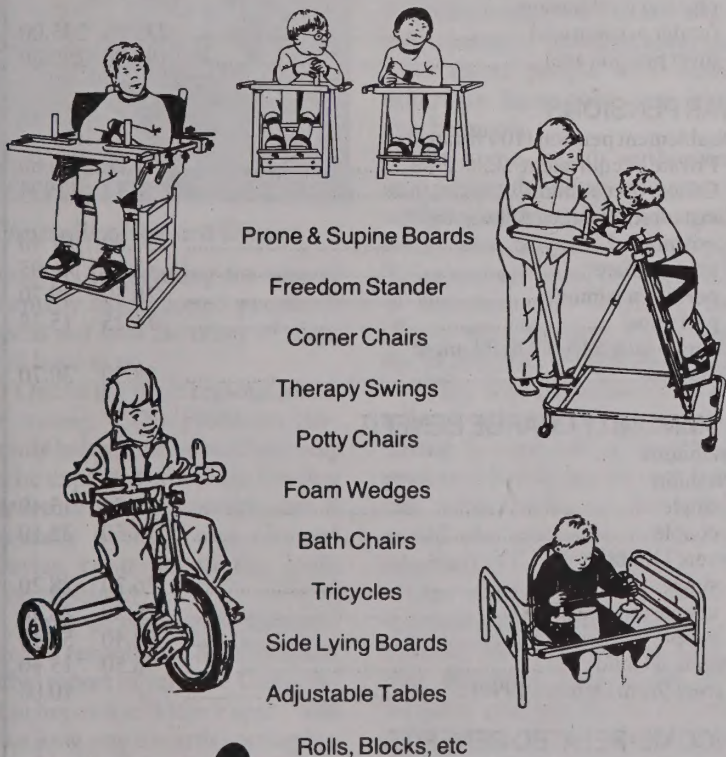
balance and structure of social security provision in this field."

The OPCS disability reports showed that there are 6.2 million disabled people in Britain and that three-quarters of them rely on social security benefits.

Disability Alliance, the umbrella group representing 120 disability groups, said: "While we welcome these changes which will help a small number of disabled people, they are a drop in the ocean compared to the need."

"Where on earth is the comprehensive review of disability benefits which we have been promised for five years and which the Government seems to have

*Continued on page 2*



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## Tycoon invests £5m in "invisible" people

Polly Peck chairman Asil Nadir has given £5m to The Spastics Society to set up an international centre for the treatment and education of young people with mental handicap and severely disturbed behaviour.

It is believed to be the biggest single donation to a national charity in the last ten years. It will come from the Nadir family's Health and Education Foundation.

The centre, the only one of its kind, will also train professionals from all over the world.

"This commitment is not so much a gift or a donation as an investment in the lives of people who are less fortunate than we are," said Asil Nadir.

"What excites me is not just caring but training that people can take back to their own countries," he added. "I hope this joint project will awaken other people to do what they can."

He approached The Spastics Society after seeing a TV documentary on the work of Beech Tree school in Lan-

cashire, which treats severely disturbed children up to the age of 16.

So far there has been nowhere similar for young people over 16.

A survey last spring revealed there are probably about 14,000 of these young adults in Britain, "invisible to us," as the project's director Ann Hithersay put it. They live either at home or in long-stay hospitals, where their violent and often self-injurious behaviour is treated with sedation or physical restraint.

The centre, due to open in September 1992 on a site now being negotiated, will have 14 places for people aged 17 to 22 and provide intensive therapy (82 staff are planned) in individual programmes for up to three years, after which it is hoped the young people will reintegrate into society.

If they cannot return to their families, then The Spastics Society or other agencies would hope to make arrangements, said chief executive Ken Young.

At Beech Tree, 80 per cent of children are able to go on to



Asil Nadir: committed

schools or residential settings that meet their needs after two years.

A place at the new centre will cost £80,000 a year. Ann Hithersay argues that many local authorities are desperate to find suitable placements and already pay up to £60,000 a year for a private hospital. With the high staffing ratio and inflation allowed for she thinks it is "not unreasonable."

"Although the programme is costly for a limited period it will enable people to have less high cost programmes later. They will always need support, but not so intensively."

Fifty-five out of 106 authorities who responded to the survey have said they would use the training resources and so far two countries have shown interest.



# A rewarding time for royalty



Ian Thomas, who has cp, receives his runner's-up medal from the Duchess of Kent at the Whitbread Community Care Awards, for his work with disabled people's charities (left). Princess Anne presents Mencap Christmas card competition winner Marilyn Moulton with art materials and a certificate.

## Little change in employers' attitudes

The latest call by Employment Secretary Norman Fowler for employers to offset the decline in school leavers by recruiting more disabled people seems to be going unheard. Two new reports show that disabled people's chances of finding a job are not improving.

Mr Fowler was speaking in October at the launch of a report called *Defusing the Demographic Time Bomb*, published by the National Economic Development Office, an independent body funded by the Government. He advised employers to recruit from groups such as mature people, the long-term unemployed, ethnic minorities and disabled people.

The NEDO report revealed

that employers could do much more to attract disabled people.

Department of Employment figures for this year show that nearly 80 per cent of all disabled people who are of working age are unemployed, compared to a national average of 6 per cent.

A new study, of secretarial job hunting in London by able-bodied and disabled people, by The Spastics Society shows that for every four job applications made by a disabled person, one will be turned down because of their disability.

This is a very small improvement on a similar study three years ago.

Brian Lamb, Campaigns and Parliamentary Officer for the Spastics Society, said: "The

study shows that in spite of demographic changes, it is still doubtful if disabled people have a fair chance in the job market."

New technology should also make it easier for disabled people to find work, as stated in the NEDO report, but the study shows this is not happening.

According to the Civil Service Equal Opportunities Division, only 1.3 per cent of government employees are disabled, with no disabled people employed at number 10 Downing Street.

Paul Beachcroft, vice chair of the Civil and Public Services Association, thinks the Government's record is "scandalous". "They're the best Government in terms of saying things but no good at doing them," he said.

## £100m on benefits "not enough"

*Continued from page 1*  
stopped mentioning?"

SENSE, the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, was delighted with the decision to extend mobility allowance to deaf-blind people but hoped it would be a step towards the Government establishing a disability income scheme.

In the meantime the Government proposes to:

- increase 400,000 disabled adults' income support by £1 and £1.60 over and above the standard inflation-related increase in benefits next April
- introduce a £10 premium for the 30,000 carers on income support who care for people getting invalid care allowance
- abolish the six month attendance allowance waiting period for terminally ill people
- scrap the rule which prevents payment of attendance allowance to children under two, giving up to £37.55 a week to 3,000 families with severely disabled babies
- make invalid care allowance

available to carers who would not otherwise qualify by these extensions of the attendance allowance

- increase from £12 to £20 a week the amount people getting ICA can earn without affecting their benefit
- increase from £28.50 to £35 a week the amount people on invalidity benefit or severe disablement allowance can earn before benefits are docked
- double the Independent Living Fund from £5 million to £10 million, with a promise of doubling it again the next year.

The changes will take place next April.

The Government has saved an estimated £250 million by freezing child benefit for the third year running. This is helping to pay for the disability benefit increases.

**Stop press:** The Government has announced that the social fund budget for 1990-91 will rise by less than one per cent - in effect a freeze for the second year running.

BENEFIT CHANGES		
	Old £	New £
MAIN BENEFIT RATES - APRIL 1990		
Attendance Allowance		
higher .....	34.90	37.55
lower .....	23.30	25.05
Invalid Care Allowance .....	26.20	28.20
Invalidity Benefit		
invalidity pension .....	43.60	46.90
Invalidity Allowance		
higher .....	9.20	10.00
middle .....	5.80	6.20
lower .....	2.90	3.10
Mobility Allowance .....	24.40	26.25
Severe Disablement Allowance .....	26.20	28.20
INCOME SUPPORT		
Maximum amounts for accommodation and meals in Residential Care Homes		
old age .....	140.00	150.00
very dependent elderly .....	155.00	165.00
physical disablement (under pension age) .....	200.00	210.00
(over pension age) .....	140.00	150.00
Nursing Homes		
terminal illness .....	235.00	245.00
physical disablement (under pension age) .....	235.00	245.00
(over pension age) .....	190.00	200.00
WAR PENSIONS		
Disablement pension (100% rates)		
Private or equivalent .....	71.20	76.60
Officer (per annum) .....	3712	3994
Constant Attendance Allowance		
exceptional .....	57.00	61.40
intermediate .....	42.75	46.05
normal maximum .....	28.50	30.70
part-time .....	14.25	15.35
Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance .....	28.50	30.70
COMMUNITY CHARGE BENEFIT		
Premiums		
Disability		
single .....	13.70	15.40
couple .....	19.50	22.10
Severe Disability		
single .....	26.20	28.20
couple (one qualifies) .....	26.20	28.20
couple (both qualify) .....	52.40	56.40
Disabled Child .....	6.50	15.40
Carers (from October 1990) .....		10.00
INCOME-RELATED BENEFITS		
Income Support and Housing Benefit		
Premiums		
Disability		
single .....	13.70	15.40
couple .....	19.50	22.10
Severe Disability		
single .....	26.20	28.20
couple (one disabled) .....	26.20	28.20
couple (both disabled) .....	52.40	56.40
EARNING RULES		
Invalid Care Allowance .....	12.00	20.00

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# Community care: will the White Paper make it work?

The Government has committed itself to improving community care for elderly, disabled and mentally ill people along the lines suggested by Sir Roy Griffiths nearly two years ago.

The white paper published last month puts ultimate responsibility for services in the hands of local authorities, but introduces controls on how they do it and postpones funding decisions until next autumn.

The 106-page paper, covering England, Wales and Scotland, emphasises giving people more choice and independence, enabling them to stay in their own homes helped by tailored services or to choose residential care.

It recognises the heavy burden borne by 6 million carers and makes support for them "a high priority".

But underlying these aims are the hard economic ones: prom-

oting a "flourishing" independent sector, making agencies more easily accountable and getting better value for the taxpayer.

Translated into key changes these mean:

1 Local authorities will be responsible, working with other agencies, for assessing a person's need, designing a package of care and securing its delivery, all "within available resources".

2 Local authorities must publish plans for developing services by 1 April 1991. The Health Secretary will take new powers to inspect the plans, call for reports and issue directions and guidance.

3 Plans must make the most of the independent sector. "The Government will expect local authorities to make use wherever possible of services from voluntary, "not for profit" and private providers in so far as they represent a cost effective choice."

While social services "will continue to play a valuable role in the provision of services", their role is seen mainly as arrangers of services, except perhaps for people with high levels of dependency or challenging behaviour.

Authorities should move towards contractual funding in partnership with voluntary organisations, says the paper, acknowledging that "voluntary organisations may need to make major changes in their working methods."

4 From April 1991 local authorities will pay for people in private and voluntary organisation homes, over and above their social security entitlements. (This will not apply to people already in homes by that date.)

Again, competitive tendering is recommended to get the best value for money and local authorities will be able to negotiate contracts with independent

home proprietors. They will then have to assess the ability of the person to contribute to their care if this has not already been done.

Local authorities will still have to pay the full costs for people living in local authority homes.

5 People with little money of their own will be eligible for the same levels of income support and housing benefit, whether they are in their own homes or in independent residential or nursing homes.

6 Local authorities are required to set up an independent inspectorate to register and maintain standards in independent homes as well as their own.

7 A new single budget managed by local authorities will cover the care costs of residents in residential care or in their own homes. No details have been given.

Funding for this will come from a transfer of the care element in social security payments

previously paid by the Government to people in residential care. It will be distributed through the revenue support grant.

Sir Roy Griffiths' proposal for a grant, earmarked for community care services, has been rejected on the grounds that local authorities must decide their own priorities. So has a similar proposal for health authority funding of community care.

The only specific grant will be for services to seriously mentally ill people.

While the paper reiterates that ministers will not approve the closure of a mental hospital without proof of alternative care, the Government will not implement section 7 of the Disabled Persons Act 1986 which obliges local and health authorities to make arrangements for people leaving hospital after six months.

*Comments, page 4*

## Slow progress spotlighted

Sixty per cent of a random sample of social services departments and local health authorities are not co-ordinating their services to mentally handicapped people.

So says a timely report on plans for mentally handicapped people, published by the Audit Commission just ahead of the Government's White Paper on community care.

Based on an in-depth investigation of 50 social services departments, the report warns that social services and health authorities have so far made slow

be the basis of community care, and less than three per cent have achieved the decentralised management and budgets necessary for this kind of care.

Most local authority services are still traditional hostels and training centres. "As a result," the report says, "there is a lack of adequate support for clients and carers living in the community, particularly respite and day care for young adults who are more profoundly handicapped."

It also highlights the problem of the dowry. In principle, people moving out of hospital bring a contribution towards their care, payable by the health authority responsible for the hospital.

The implication of a 1983 DHSS circular was that the dowries once paid would continue to fund future people who would otherwise have gone into long stay hospitals.

But some health authorities stop paying the dowry when a resettled resident dies (or goes back into hospital and dies). "The money 'saved' by the NHS is therefore not available for clients who 'replace' those who die in hospital," says the report.

"This is of particular concern to local authorities which are now having to cope with people with profound handicaps leaving special school who, in the past, would very probably have been admitted to hospital."

One mother who has a 17-year-old son, wrote to the Commission. Her son is incontinent, tube fed every four hours, has frequent epileptic fits and needs daily treatment for severe lung problems.

She says: "I am not sure how much longer I can continue to keep up this level of care without help. I would like to know why Malcolm is not entitled to live in ordinary housing as an alternative to long stay hospital?"

*Developing Community Care for Adults with a Mental Handicap, £4.25, HMSO.*



**Beverley's home**

The death of a deaf/blind woman of 23 in appalling circumstances has highlighted disturbing gaps in the provision of community care and education for severely disabled people.

Beverley Lewis from Gloucester died in squalor weighing 3st 13lbs, after her mother, who has since been diagnosed as schizophrenic, stopped feeding her. She had looked after her daughter single-handedly for over 20 years with no respite care.

The coroner at the inquest last month recorded a verdict of death from "natural causes".

Sense, the National Deaf/Blind and Rubella Association estimates that at least 1,000 deaf/blind adults were born in the same year as Beverley, 1965, during the 1964-66 epidemic of German measles (rubella).

It is demanding a full public inquiry to find out why Beverley died and the lessons for the future, supported by Beverley's MP Douglas French and the All-

## Return to the Dark Ages

Party Disablement Group. (An inquest may not examine in detail why a death occurred.)

"Without a full inquiry this verdict is a return to the dark ages of disability where nothing was expected but a hopeless life and a rapid death," Sense says.

It challenges misleading statements made about deaf/blind rubella-disabled people, such as: Beverley's weight of under four stones was not exceptional, and life expectancy is low and to die at Beverley's age natural. It also says that it was not right to regard her as mentally handicapped — her needs were primarily those of somebody who is deaf/blind.

Beverley received no education after the age of 10. The 1981 Education Act, implemented in 1983, requiring local authorities to assess the needs of any child needing special education, came too late for her and many others.

Beverley's care was described as good the inquest because she was kept warm and clean by her mother, (though she was doubly incontinent and spent the end of her life naked on a settee covered by newspaper).

To Malcolm Matthews, director of welfare services at Sense, this was an indictment. "Bever-

meant she was, for 13 years, a prisoner within her own body. Acceptable standards for care in the community must be clarified."

As Mrs Lewis's mental health deteriorated, she discouraged both Beverley's brothers and sisters and professionals from visiting. Beverley's GP, John Buckley, never met her.

Social worker Keith Parry, who took over Beverley's case in 1982, after members of her family approached Gloucester social services, saw her eight times in 88 visits. Community nurse Betty Hiscock, who took over for the last two years of Beverley's life, saw her only six times in 20 visits.

Once she was 18, Beverley legally became an independent adult. Her mother had no legal responsibility to care for her.

If Beverley had been a child, welfare agencies would have been empowered to gain regular access or take her into care.

Sense supports a form of legal guardianship. It also says that the Disabled Person's Act 1986, still not implemented by the Government, is essential for other deaf/blind young people if community care is going to work."

The Government is now re-



**Beverley's sisters, Angela Lewis (left) and Pearlene Webb, want a full public inquiry.**

ley's needs as a human being for contact with other people, for stimulation, for opportunities for personal development were totally neglected.

"As she was deaf/blind this

viewing the Mental Health Act. The Coroner had asked for clarification of section seven of the Act which provides in certain circumstances for "guardianship" of severely disabled people.





## IN PARLIAMENT

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## Children's Bill

David Mellor (Con) moved a Government amendment on conductive education to be inserted in the Education Act 1981.

The amendment is intended to put beyond doubt the legal basis for local education authorities in England and Wales to make contributions to the costs (fees and expenses) of placements abroad for children with special education needs.

It is particularly designed to enable local education authorities to support disabled children at the Peto Institute of conductive education (especially those with cerebral palsy). Trips to Budapest are very expensive and this measure would avoid families suffering undue financial hardship until the method is more widely available in GB.

Tom Clarke (Lab) criticised the lack of availability of conductive education in this country and emphasised that it urgently needs to be able to provide the services and research that Peto performs.

Robert Key (Con), who had framed the amendment in committee, reassured Mr Clarke that there was no intention of devaluing the work carried out in Britain. "We are simply saying that this must be a step forward until such time as we can provide further help in Britain."

Frank Doran (Lab) was not convinced by this. He cited the Raeden Centre in Aberdeen

which differs from the Peto Institute in one respect – lack of money. He was worried that it would raise people's hopes for a miracle cure, while denying the tremendous work done in this country.

In reply Mr Mellor said the Peto Institute had been a stimulus to organisations in Britain who are being trained in the Peto method, such as the Birmingham centre and The Spastics Society. But it takes time to train a conductor and places are limited.

"We wish to see both a growth in provision and a growth in variety of provision." Not only by local authorities but by voluntary

organisations too; The Spastics Society makes contributions towards cost to send children to Peto, he said. Strengthened links with Hungary should lead to the development of conductive education in Britain.



Key to independence: Ian Smith (right) gets the keys to Motability's 150,000th car from Labour leader Neil Kinnock.

The amendment was agreed.

## Social Security changes

The Secretary of State for Social Security Tony Newton, announced changes to take effect on 9 April 1990 (see page 1).

He had prioritised the long-term sick and disabled and their carers as one of three groups that

needed special attention (low income families and less well off pensioners are the other two). He did not increase child benefit.

Robin Cook (Lab) warmly welcomed the introduction of a carers' premium and the extension of AA to the terminally ill and children under two.

He highlighted that 200,000 claimants on transitional protection have still had no increase for three years running, when it is supposed to reflect costs. He pressed for a comprehensive review of disability benefits.

Tony Newton said that by the turn of the year there should be a fuller response based on the

child benefit as well, so they are paying for the increase in the disability allowance by losing child benefit? Where is the justice in that?"

## PM's question time

The Prime Minister was asked by John Hannam (Con), on 9 November, to make a statement on the new measures to help the disabled. She replied that the changes will give extra help to some 500,000 disabled people and carers. "These will add a further £100 million on top of the £8.3 billion a year being spent on benefits for long-term sick and disabled people in real terms. That is nearly double what was being spent in 1979."

Mr Hannam asked if she recalled her "1979 commitment to introduce a system of cash benefits to meet the costs of disablement". Would she personally be involved in a disability benefits review?

Mrs Thatcher said: "We have honoured our pledge by increasing the amount spent on the disabled by 90%. In real terms – that is, over and above inflation – since 1979."

Jack Ashley asked the Prime Minister: "Is she aware that although her figures are correct the impression that she seeks to create is false? In the past 10 years the real value of the average male take home pay has risen by 20%, while the average real value of disablement benefits has risen by less than 1%. That is why her boast about helping disabled people has a hollow ring."

Mrs Thatcher replied: "I do not think that the many people who now receive disablement benefits but did not receive them before will find that comes with a hollow ring."

Pauline Graham

## CHANGES AT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Following Nigel Lawson's resignation and the resulting reshuffle, Virginia Bottomley is the new Junior Health Minister responsible for community care; Baroness Hooper is the new Parliamentary Secretary (in the Lords) with responsibilities including services for elderly people and disablement services.

## Comments on White Paper

Continued from page 3

Sir Roy Griffiths is "delighted" with the white paper. He said: "We have sufficient control to ensure that local authorities will in fact deliver."

Parliamentary comment was effectually stifled by publishing the white paper on the day the Parliamentary session ended.

But Jack Ashley, chairman of the All Party Disablement Group, argues that community care cannot be effective if disabled people have no legal say in their own care. He wants the Disabled Persons Act fully implemented.

"Without legal rights to consultation, representation, assessment and power of appeal, disabled people will be denied vital help," he said. "It is an inexcusable deprivation of human rights."

Ken Young, chief executive of The Spastics Society, sees a shift away from public authorities having responsibility for direct care.

He said: "I feel very unhappy

about this because if there is a belief that The Spastics Society can replace statutory services for people with disabilities in this country, it is mistaken. That kind of burden would be impossible on this organisation."

The Association of Directors of Social Services welcomed the white paper but regretted that the extra money would not be earmarked for community care.

While the Carers' National Association and Contact a Family, speaking as one voice, welcomed recognition of carers and their need for support, they looked in vain in the paper for how it will all happen.

"It will be essential too that local carers and their organisations are consulted when the plans are being drawn up. This will require a new way of thinking on the part of local authorities who are not used to consulting carers at all, and indeed are usually unaware of how many carers there are in their area."

*Caring for People, Community Care in the Next Decade and Beyond, HMSO £8.10.*

## IN BRIEF

## Union pays its dues

A fund to buy equipment for disabled young people has been set up by the Electrical Electronic Telecommunication and Plumbing Union (EETPU).

The union aims to raise £100,000 in the fund's first year. The money will go to groups and individuals who could use electronic equipment to help disabled young people. EETPU are also offering help with installation. Building company Bovis has already donated £1,000.

The fund is administered by Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied (Phab) which will help to judge grant applications. People connected with EETPU are likely to be chosen, but anyone can apply.

Information from EETPU, Hayes Court, West Common Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 7AU.

## BSL windfall

A new training course in British Sign Language at Durham University has been given nearly £400,000 by the European Social Fund.

The three-year course is for both deaf and hearing people. Students do the course at the university and from home. Exam questions can be answered in sign language on video.

There are up to 90 places on the course and it will give people the skills to run courses of their own or set up as freelance interpreters.

## National Curriculum?

*A Curriculum for All* is a report which looks at how the National Curriculum can be adapted to special needs pupils. It includes detailed teaching exercises and broadens the range of subjects taught to special needs pupils, especially in science and mathematics. Monitoring methods, staff management and the learning environment are also examined. The report hopes to build on existing good teaching practice while suggesting new ways of teaching and evaluating pupils' abilities.

The report, published by the National Curriculum Council, has been sent out to special and ordinary schools. Further copies from NCC Publications, 15-17 New Street, York YO1 2RA, £5.

## Corrections

The Greater London Association for Disabled People (GLAD) has not, as reported in last months *DN*, set a target percentage for disabled people on its staff.

Also in the November issue, we reported in our *Naidex* review that Fridays are kept free for visitors to the Planet (Play Leisure Advice Network) resource centre. In fact staff or parents are welcome to visit the resource centre on any weekday. But it is essential to ring (0923) 854861 ext 4385 first to make an appointment.

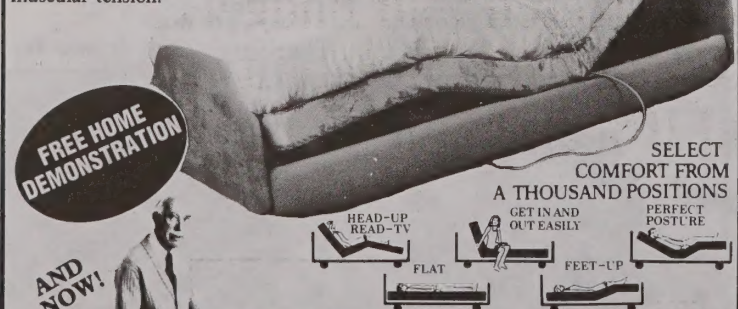
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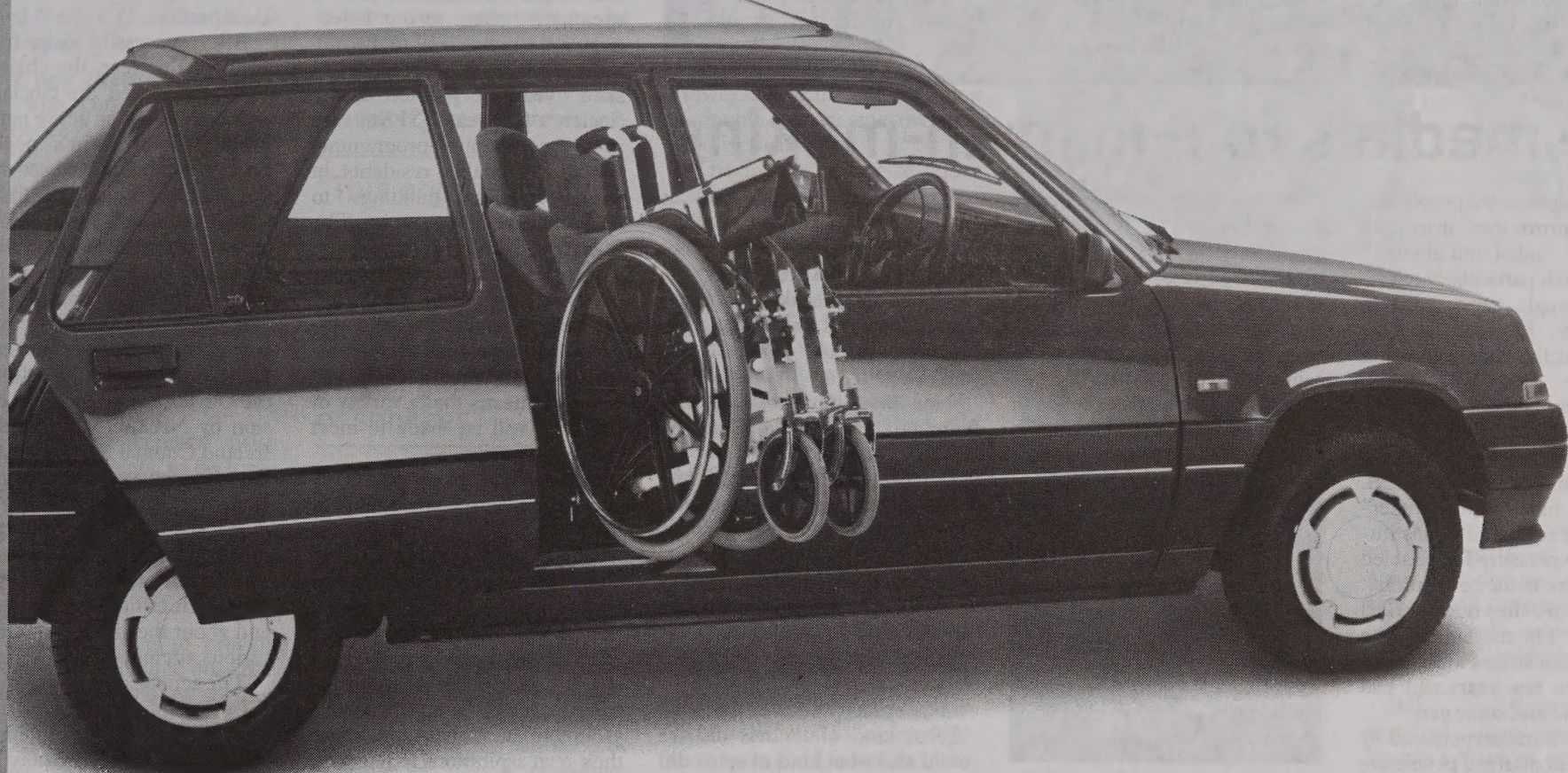
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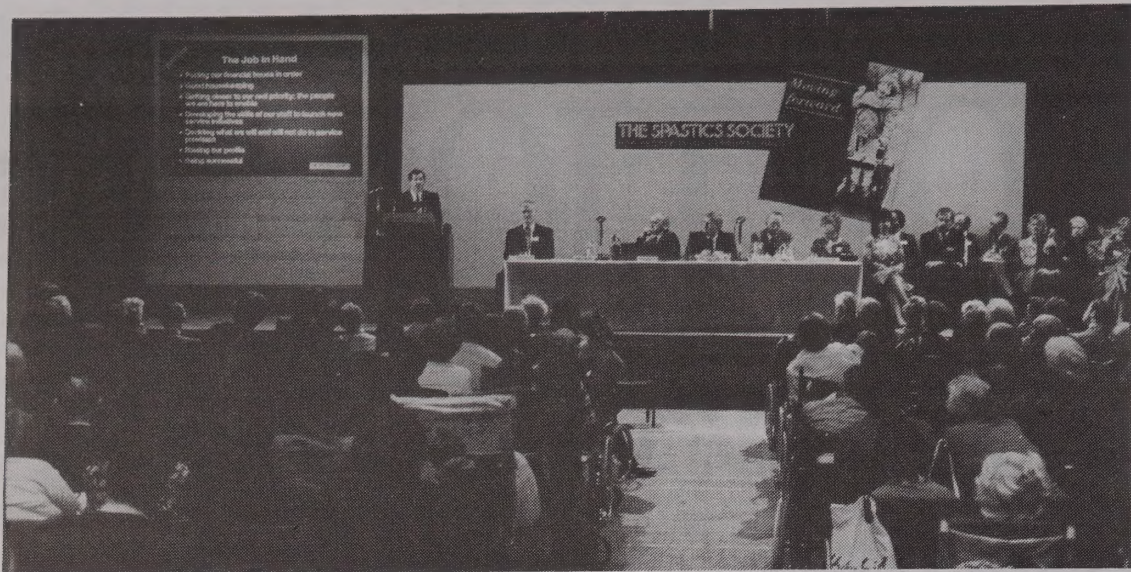
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DN12





## The media's role in myth-making

Myths about disabled people and how to improve their lives have often been "aided and abetted" by the media, particularly television, claimed guest speaker Leslie Park, President of Life Services for the Handicapped in New York.

The myth, "Once a problem is exposed, the problem will be solved" has had dire results for disabled people in the USA. Television film showing underfunded and understaffed institutions led to pressure for disabled people to live in the community.

"Where are they now?" asked Mr Park. "On the streets. We have filled our streets with people who until a few years ago had shelter, food and some care."

Another myth perpetuated by TV is that all disabled people are heroic.

Others have been built on Government trust. "Democratic government knows what to do and will do it"; "The Government can do it all so voluntary organisations are less necessary." ("That's not true. Certainly not in my country.")

"The Government can do it better if it spent more money" is another and, one from his own



Leslie Park

organisation, "If you send us money, we'll have your cp child walking."

Mr Park was reviewing the muddles and mistakes in the US experience and life of his organisation, which parallels the development of TV. His main theme was how to live with cerebral palsy in a changing world.

He believed that the spirit had to be put back into work with disabled people: reaching people's hearts and souls was the beginning of rehabilitation.

Building models, whether as an organisation, a family or an individual with cp was essential to inspire others.

Historians would be judging. "What kind of models did we build and what kind of spirit did we bring?"

## The Spastics Society

### A watershed in our affairs

Chairman Douglas Shapland was in no mood to apologise for the Society in his annual report.

"It is high time we got off our defensive platform and made our successes known," he said. "If we sing our praises often enough and loud enough perhaps others will begin to take notice and eventually believe in our objectives and commitment to them."

In what he called "a watershed" year, he pointed to the Society's five-year, £31.9m care in the community programme, which will enable residents in large, Victorian buildings to move into the community. The Society will give £11.9m; the rest will come from housing associations and others.

"Let me emphasise that this does not mean that every individual will end up in a small bungalow. It means that a variety of provision will be made to meet individual need."

While recognising concerns about the new regional management structure, he was confident that it would provide greater opportunities for local groups to take part in developing an overall Society strategy.

"The National Society will, indeed must, provide substantially increased support to local groups to allow them to achieve their own aspirations in line with that strategy," he said.

He spoke of the £5m given by Polly Peck chairman Asil Nadir and the national cerebral palsy helpline for parents.

SOS had promised £3m over four years for new buildings and staff training at Ingfield Manor School, Sussex, whose work is inspired by the Peto Institute in Budapest.

After successful visits to the Institute this year, the chairman said he believed the Society is now considered an active partner in the Government's negotiations with Hungary to set up an international training centre.

Other highlights of the year included the first International Cerebral Palsy Games in Nottingham and receiving £150,000 from Barclays Bank for training cp athletes; seeing Beaumont College drama group perform at the Olivier Theatre and the decision by NICOD (the Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development) to negotiate to become a region of the Society.

Mr Shapland was scathing about the aims and accuracy of a recent *Same Difference* programme which criticised the Society, and about the silence which met various attempts to reply.

The actions of the Society over the year and the coverage it had received in the media demonstrated "an open Society" he said.

## COLLEGE FIELDS Merton



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Galliford Sears, Tilbury, Thamesway and Bellway Homes will be releasing late in 1990 a range of studio, one and two bedroom flats at ground level on their joint development at College Fields, Merton.

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Although these properties will not be available until late 1990, and so we have no price range available at present, for further information please contact Louise Macpherson, Marketing Manager, Galliford Sears Homes Limited, Freeport, Castle House, Park Road, Banstead, Surrey SM7 1BR — Tel no: 0737 353411.

  
**Galliford Sears**  
HOMES

**Tilbury**

  
**Thamesway Homes Limited**

  
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## 38th AGM at Imperial College 4 November

# Good housekeeping year

In a first year given over to "good housekeeping and getting ourselves sorted out", chief executive Ken Young could still point to some significant achievements.

- Asil Nadir's £5 million donation (see page 1)

- five new directors appointed, each with considerable caring experience in their fields

- at least £250,000 more each year going into direct services as a result of management and regional reorganisation

- a regionalisation programme which will shift power and money – from £5 million to £7 million a year – to each of six regions so that services are brought closer to the customer

- a freephone cerebral palsy helpline for parents, to be launched in April

- an education plan, now being discussed with governing bodies and staff; the results presented in May

- a £100,000 plan to provide management training for five people with disabilities so they can be "fast tracked" into management jobs in the Society

- a two-year pilot project with Lancaster University, whereby the Society pays part of the salary of a member of staff who will help disabled students

"There is a great deal we can be proud of," Ken Young told the AGM.

In a speech lasting well over an hour, he covered not only the "action", but the thinking behind it which will influence future policy.

On the financial front, he argued: "Raising money for charity is very competitive and there are other people with good causes who are equally as able as we are to bring that money in. Therefore it is my responsibility to try to use every pound we have in the most cost effective way." Hence the reorganisations which have already produced extra money for services.

The Society has 4,000 employees and currently spends £1m a year on training. Staff will need to be re-equipped for future changes, he said, as the Society brings its services more closely into line with the needs of its customers – people with cp, parents, local authorities.

In the past, the Society had been too ready to provide services when asked, even if it got diverted from its main aims. "We have got to stop doing that otherwise we are going to stretch ourselves so far that some of our services will just collapse. So we're talking about the sensible and sensitive examination of our priorities."

Ken Young was very concerned about the Government's white paper on community care

(see page 2). What the Society should be doing, he said, is continuing the services that no one else can do and "staying at the leading edge in terms of pioneering work".

On the Society's own community care programme, he pledged: "This organisation is not in the business of dumping people into the community without proper care and proper ser-

**"This organisation is not in the business of dumping people into the community without proper care or services"**

vices. It's not going to happen here."

The changes that will have to happen in the Society's education services have little to do with the Society or its schools, he said. They are to do with government legislation, changing expectations among education authorities and younger parents and the fact that the Society has services that no-one else is providing, such as the work inspired by conductive education.



The education policy under discussion is not, he emphasised, a cost cutting exercise. "This is a development exercise. It's about investing in the future of our children."

The cerebral palsy helpline which could help parents in distress and point them in the right direction for support was just the kind of public service that the Society should be providing, said Ken Young.

Similarly, having just completed a management recruitment drive, it was evident to him that there were very few suitably qualified disabled people – hence the decision, made with the chairman, to earmark money for training and give "real, positive opportunities" for employment in the Society.

Again, the Lancaster Uni-

versity project was a beginning. "Why should we not consider that many of the people we care for and provide a service for will not move on to take a degree and have a career? If we really believe that, we've got to put our money into the centres of education."

On marketing, the Society would have a plan of action ready by May next year. "We're aiming to double our income over the next five years."

The Society's house-to-house collection must, claimed Ken Young, be one of biggest and most sophisticated donor operations in the UK. 250,000 volunteers are involved. Without them the Spastics Society wouldn't exist, wouldn't have a future, and he thanked them for their time, energy and commitment.

Another kind of partnership without which the Society couldn't survive was with local authorities, the private sector and so on. "Very few of our resources exist without genuine partnership locally. So partnership will remain a very strong part of this management team's philosophy for the future."

Partnership was also at the root of the regionalisation plans. "Regionalisation for my management team and I is not about retrenchment, or about taking power away; it's about sharing money, resources, services, decisions with regional committees and local groups, and having a true partnership at a local level."

Regionalisation would allow regional committees to see for the first time the full range of the Society's services in a region and influence the direction they took.

He rejected criticism that he would not support local groups. "I want to highlight the role of local groups and local group support through my staffing structure in a much more positive way," he said. "That is a personal commitment."

Research and development was another area where plans – for a research programme relevant to the Society's needs – would be produced soon.

The Society's name could not be changed until the Society knew where it was going, argued Ken Young. He felt as strongly as many others about it and promised that by the next AGM he would have the results of some hard research. Just changing the name of the shops would cost £500,000.

Among other subjects mentioned were ageing – a research project is underway – and young parents and families. "If we don't address the needs of young families we will as an organisation no longer be representative of the future population of people with cerebral palsy."

He pledged that people with disabilities would be involved in future discussion and research and committed himself to improving the staffing and resources of the Alpha committee.



Douglas Shapland, centre, with new Council members, from left, Anthony Hewson, Glynn Vernon, and Arthur Firkins. LEON MORRIS

## More money for services

The Society's income increased by £4.7m to £51.3 million in 1988-89, honorary treasurer Bill Huddleston told the AGM. £37.6m was spent on services to cp people, an increase of £2.45m over the previous year.

He picked out for particular praise SOS appeals, whose net income rose by 90 per cent, the shops department with 28 per cent net growth, taking it to over £2.7m, and regional appeals with a 21 per cent net improvement.

The deficit had dropped to £943,000. The only way to reduce it, said Mr Huddleston, was to get more income or cut services. But the Society's policy was to increase services to existing clients and search out and provide services to those who

have needs it is not yet even aware of.

To this end, all fundraising is to be centralised under the marketing division and a new strategy will concentrate on new types of low-cost fundraising as well as profitable existing ones.

Bill Huddleston swiftly scotched allegations that the Society's finances are being investigated by the Charities Commission. "I do not know why people would want to damage the Society and its clients by perpetrating such untruths, but I can deny the allegation here and now."

Nor, he said, was there any truth in the claim that the Society was financially sick.



Chairman Frank Rowan and director Thelma Greaves of the Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development.

## Executive Council changes

Three new members were elected: Glynn Vernon, 45, who has cp and is the first user of the Society's services to be a member of the Council (see Profile, page 17); Anthony Hewson, 42, company director who is chairman of the governors and parents' association of Ingfield Manor School; and Arthur Firkins, 50, accountant and company director with over 30 years experience with local groups.

Two members were re-elected: Betty Fisher, a parent, and Sharon Hughes, who has cp

and chairs the Alpha Advisory Committee.

Stepping down were Professor Dean Berry after three years and Ron Firman, who has cp, after 11 years. Valerie Lang, the first person with cp to be a vice-chairman, has resigned. Her place has been taken by a parent, Eileen Milnes, 12 years a Council member. Douglas Shapland thanked all the leavers warmly for the work and support they had given.

\*The Council now has 8 parents, 5 people with cp and two others.



# Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

## Charity advertising

How do people with disabilities feel about the way they are portrayed on charity advertising campaigns? What effect do they believe such campaigns have on their public image? Is there a need for advertising agencies and charities to take a different approach?

The King's Fund Centre is working with disabled people, charities and advertising practitioners to promote a positive image for disabled people who appear in charity ads.

There are those who argue that people with disabilities must approve and appreciate the advertising done on their behalf, because they rarely register complaints with bodies like the Advertising Standards Authority or the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

We would very much like to hear from readers of *Disability Now* and we hope to feed back your views to charities, broadcasting and advertising agencies as part of our effort to encourage them to consult disabled people more systematically.

Please send your comments and suggestions to me, address below.

Susan Scott-Parker  
c/o The Community Development Team  
The King's Fund Centre  
126 Albert Street  
London NW1 7NF

## Aggravated

"Night Clubbing" (*DN* October) highlights the lack of provision and choice for disabled people.

In particular your comments

were aimed at the Derby Ritz's nightclub owned by Mecca, which has been at the centre of a row during the last 12 months.

However, the statement that Mecca now welcomes anybody in wheelchairs *but would like advance notice* was quite wrong, and it was incorrect for the spokesperson of Mecca to put out such a statement when clearly this was not part of the agreement reached at Derby City Council on 3 July 1989.

The assurance that was given in writing by Mecca was that "disabled people, including those in wheelchairs, will have the same rights of access to Ritz's as able-bodied persons. We confirm that we are instructed to give that assurance."

Until legislation is passed by Parliament outlining discrimination against disabled people, the Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People will take direct action wherever possible. This organisation will challenge any club's licence whenever it feels appropriate.

We will not be subjected to aggravation and hassle by large multi-national organisations such as those described in your article.

Norman H Colledge  
Campaign Co-ordinator  
The Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People, Chesterfield

## Discrimination

In reply to Allan Soffert's letter (*DN* September), may I point out that one does not have to be disabled to work for and on behalf of disabled people.

I have disabilities, but am not

disabled, and have spent a lifetime in such work; not only for Dial-a-Ride but also for pavements and roads to be constructed for the easy, safe passage of wheelchairs.

I have had very little support from those who are disabled.

Dave Wetzel knows what it's all about, being very prominent in the scheme when it was inaugurated by the GLC. What's more, he has the know how. I would suggest that we need his like on London Regional Transport, then we will make progress.

Tony H Lewis  
Sutton, Surrey

## Offensive

I recently got very upset in a cafe when the couple on the next table considered me drunk, whilst the waitress wondered if I took sugar and asked my husband. I wrote the poem below as a result.

I'm not drunk.  
I just have a job to talk.  
I'm not a cripple.  
I just have a job to walk.  
I know I don't take sugar in tea,  
But it would be nice if they'd ask me.

Chrissy Parsons  
Sheerness, Kent

## Naturist holiday

I recently took a disabled man on a naturist holiday abroad.

There was any amount of information, help and guidance about taking a disabled person on holiday, and several naturist holiday brochures. What I could not find was any overlap between the two.

I had never been on a naturist holiday before and was slightly apprehensive.

I need not have worried, since the only strange thing was how swiftly it stopped feeling strange to walk about naked, and to see everyone else likewise.

I found naturism to be

completely unsexy, just as was mentioned in the *DN* article (June). I also found complete acceptance for a disabled person and a refreshing willingness to accept both him (and me) at face value.

While my experience of naturism is obviously limited, I would say that disability is no reason to hold back from taking such a holiday – subject to accessibility.

Richard Kendall  
Social worker  
Buxton Residential Centre

## Yellow sticks?

Your report "White canes should be free" (*DN* October) moves me to suggest that there is a need for a way to identify disabled people who are not confined to a wheelchair.

Perhaps because of the disabled logo, the general public thinks that one is only disabled if in a wheelchair.

There must be many who suffer mobility problems who would welcome the introduction of perhaps a yellow stick for those with lower-limb disabilities who are not dependent on a wheelchair.

Derek Martin  
Medmenham, Bucks

## Chris critics

This month (November) Chris Davies saw fit to dismiss not only *Same Difference* but the whole disability movement in one sweeping statement. "*Same Difference* (and indeed the whole disability movement) ought to be more selective in its criticisms of The Spastics Society and give credit where it is due."

It would be nice to feel that Chris himself recognised the wide variety of thought and opinion amongst the disabled population and that there is no one "correct" opinion or philosophy, but that as in any

other section of the community feelings and opinions are as many and diverse as the people who hold them.

Could an element of self protectionism have turned objective journalism into prejudiced reportage?

Elaine Evans  
Jackie Dover  
Walton, Liverpool

Having read Chris Davies's criticism of the *Don't Just Sit There* programme (*DN* August) I felt compelled to comment on his negative response.

We ought to be congratulating Martin Duffy for producing such an excellent high profile television programme; he isn't just sitting there and letting the world go on around only to find fault in it.

Through his chosen method Martin is promoting people and sport for people with disabilities in a wholly positive manner, and in doing so will create positive images in the minds of the viewers and perhaps more importantly in the mind of those with disabilities.

Hopefully, through programmes like *Don't Just Sit There*, in the future there will be disabled experts with the skills and self confidence to take part.

To suggest that the programme over emphasised the physically independent is wrong and rather subjective.

What has to be remembered is that however valuable any activity is, it is not necessarily good television.

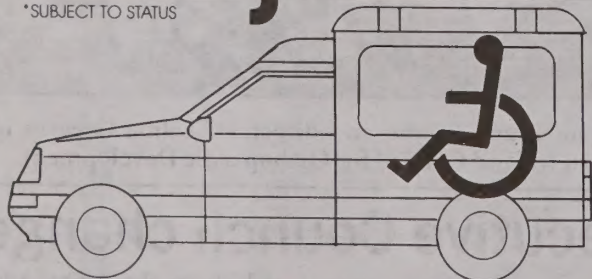
This goes for all sporting spheres, for those with or without disabilities. Sport for those who are dependent on others was featured; many took part in the activities day.

Robin Surgeoner  
Department of Recreation and Community Services  
Birmingham City Council

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## sic

## Audible Commission

Congratulations to the Audit Commission for another lucid report on community care.

*Developing community care for adults with a mental handicap* pre-dates the Government's long-awaited White Paper on community care and is a timely reminder of just how much work remains for local authorities and how difficult any improvements will be without a change in funding arrangements (see page 3).

It was the Audit Commission's 1986 report on community care which stung the Government into setting up Sir Roy Griffiths' investigation – the acorn from which the White Paper has grown. Let's hope it isn't all dead wood.

## Sorry, I don't see...

Do you know the connection between water/sewerage charges and free NHS spectacles?

No, neither does a letter writer to *The Times*. She was helping a sick friend on a very low income claim for free specs. After filling in a whole booklet of questions to

do with income and expenditure, it has now been returned. The DHSS would like to know how much of her rent is used by the landlord of her bed-sit to cover water and sewerage charges. Other examples of bureaucracy apparently gone mad on a postcard please.

This month has also seen Labour's health spokesman Robin Cook claiming that four million fewer people have been for eye tests since the introduction of charges last April.

Opticians Dolland & Aitchison, market leaders with 650 branches, have said: "There is a likelihood of many opticians going bankrupt and therefore putting at risk one of the highest standards of optical care in the world." A case of short-sighted savings?

## Not so loony Left

Still on Labour and Robin Cook. During a debate on community care last month, the canny Scotsman pointed out the enormous variations in the provision of home helps around the country.

Of the top 20 social services authorities, who provide more than 40 hours of home help per person over 75, virtually all of

them are Labour-controlled councils.

Of the bottom 20, all of whom provide less than 20 hours per person over 75, none of them is in majority Labour control.

Who really cares.

## Chinese whispers

The Body Shop, the green chain for consumers with a conscience, needs disability awareness training for some of its staff.

A phone call to its mail order department, to find out how *DN* customers go about getting a make-up tape, went like this: Yours truly: "Hello, I'm phoning from a newspaper called *Disability Now* and I'd like to find out...."

Body Shop employee: "I'll just ask." Failing to cover mouthpiece properly: "I've got this small disabled catalogue on the phone...."

Obviously a case of hearing the word "disability" and letting her preconceptions run away with her.

PS For details of Body Shop's services for visually impaired customers see our Christmas special. PPS Just for the record, *DN* has a national circulation of nearly 30,000.

Geraldine Holden



## Eowyn's father, Paul Field, speaks for many Rett Syndrome parents

My daughter, Eowyn Jane, is 13 and has Rett Syndrome, a relatively rare brain disorder which affects only girls, results in profound mental and physical disability, and is as yet incurable.

Aside from this, Eowyn is pugnacious and in love with life. With these qualities, she was able to come safely through spinal fusion operations earlier this year to correct the back curvature (scoliosis) which is a common feature in Rett Syndrome.

For everyone involved with Eowyn, 1989 was the end of childhood and the beginning of her adult future. The need to plan a happy and secure life for her without massive strain on the family is something all parents of children with disabilities have to face.

Things began to go wrong when Eowyn was 15 months old. Our apparently healthy daughter started to lose the skills she had acquired and went into an appalling tailspin over the following months.

In early 1977 Eowyn was using her hands in a pincer grip to eat raisins and propelling herself around by fast creeping. By the end of 1978 she was utterly dependent on others to feed her, and was functionally immobile. She started the repetitive hand-wringing which is common to all Rett girls.

Nobody could say why all this was happening. Eowyn's mother, Jenny, myself and our little girl left New Zealand and came to London seeking answers to the enigma. By then, we had weaned Eowyn off the stultifying anticonvulsant drugs prescribed for the epileptic fits she had had regularly during the previous year.

Nothing else was good, however.

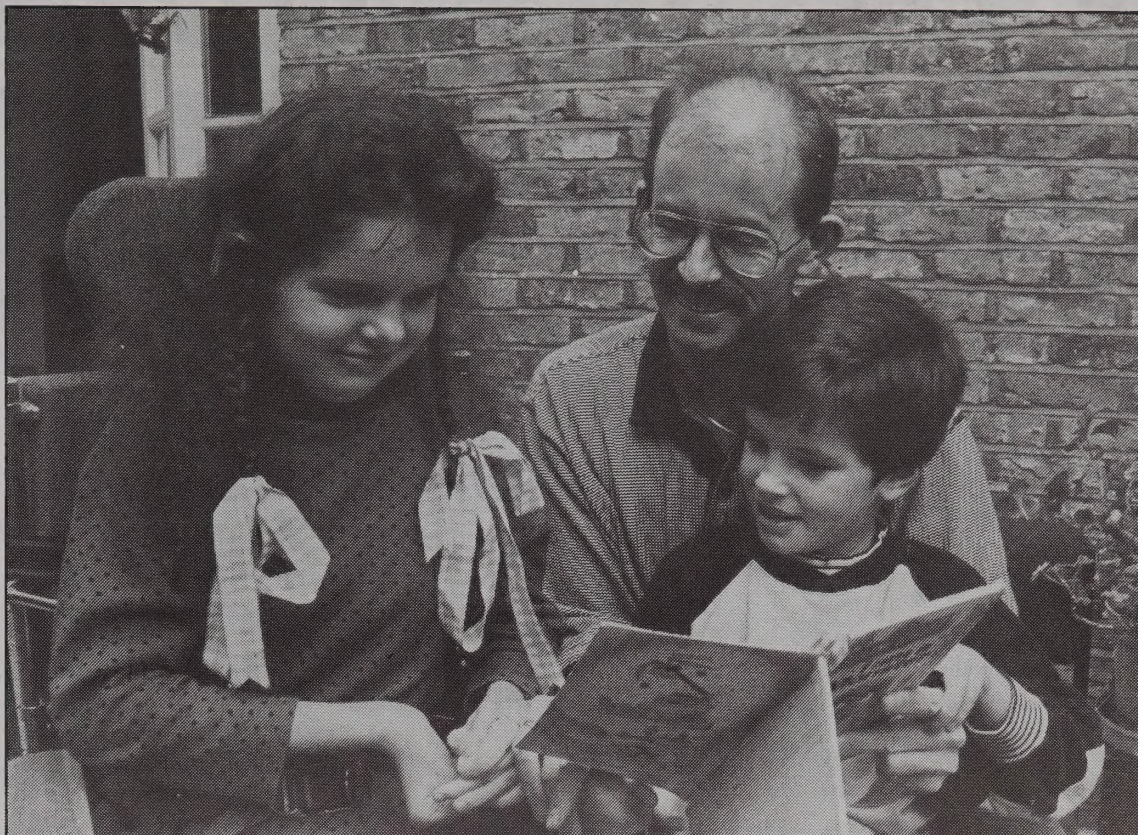
My relationship with Jenny seemed irrevocably over, though we knew we had to work together for Eowyn's sake.

It was to be another six years before we had the diagnosis – years in which we settled in London, Eowyn went to a special school, Jenny and I broke up, began new relationships while living in the same communal house, and finally established separate households.

We still lived in South-West London, only two miles apart, which meant we could share Eowyn's care on a two days on/off, alternate long/short weekend basis. With that arrangement we were able to work part-time. The care system included our new partners.

By 1984, unbeknown to us, the fates were moving our way.

Although Rett Syndrome had been identified in 1966 by Andreas Rett of Vienna, it remained largely unnoticed until 1983, when it was rediscovered by Professor Bengt Hagberg and publicised in the journal *Annals of*



Eowyn at home, enjoying Sesame Street with her father and brother, Jacob

SANDRA CUMMING

## What will happen to Eowyn?

### Neurology.

It was soon apparent that a clinical diagnosis could be made based on a history of developmental slowing, followed by the loss of previously acquired skills, marked changes in emotional development and behaviour and new, stereotyped behaviours, most commonly repetitive hand movements, hyperventilation or breath-holding.

In 1985 Jenny read a small article on the syndrome in *Scientific American* and wondered.

At a Spastics Society assessment in early 1986, it was decided that Eowyn was unsuitable for Meldreth Manor School. But more importantly, the paediatric neurologist made the breakthrough and diagnosed her as having Rett Syndrome.

The loneliness had ended. Since then, of course, I have heard of many other journeys made, fruitless waits in grey hospitals, buckets of tears and pain endured.

Yvonne Milne's daughter, Clare, was one of the first British girls to be diagnosed, which led to Yvonne forming the UK Rett Syndrome Association. There are now over 240 diagnosed Rett girls in the UK, but Yvonne is convinced there are many more with their families still searching for answers.

As the new decade approaches, Eowyn's future must be faced. I am once again a single parent, now with a six-year-old son as well. I live around the corner from Jenny and we continue to share Eowyn's care.

The critical issues for Eowyn are respite care and post-19 provision.

Our local authority, Lambeth, grants Eowyn six weeks respite care a year, which we use mainly during school holidays. Eowyn goes to Tadworth Court, a children's hospital in Surrey run by a charitable trust, where the care and love she receives is exceptional. Three Rett girls go

to Tadworth, so the staff have become expert in caring for them.

We are lucky. Many Rett girls have no respite care or just emergency care.

The plan is for Eowyn to continue living at home, with extended support from Tadworth Court, while we explore post-19 options. Six years is not a long time, particularly since Lambeth has

no framework for the on-going needs of young multi-handicapped adults.

Everywhere, it seems, parents in similar circumstances have the same concerns. Will we ever be able to communicate our children's need for a dignified, secure life, independent within the limits of their disabilities, to authorities who are *not* thinking of money as the bottom line?

Ideally, I would like Eowyn to live with other Rett girls in a family-style home within reach of us, so that she can come home for weekends. That way she keeps close contact with us, which we all value, but the family is relieved of continuous care.

In the London borough of Islington, for example, there are four Rett girls, so a plan of this kind is feasible.

Rett girls have a life expectancy of at least 40 years (older women have yet to be identified), if they have had the fusion operation to correct scoliosis. So we are talking about long-term arrangements.

The Rett Syndrome Association has been working on the idea of developing Rett homes and is to fund a feasibility study in the New Year.

Meanwhile, there are all the joyous memories – the love Eowyn's step-parents give her; Vermont in the fall with Eowyn amazed at all the colours; driving with Eowyn while her beloved Bob Dylan plays – these link with the sense of community the Association gives us.

Life is full of wonders and mysteries to enrich us all, disabled and able-bodied. We all deserve more than sheer survival.

*Paul Field is the London contact parent for the UK Rett Syndrome Association. Reach him through the Islington Disablement Association, where he is access officer, 90/92 Upper Street, London N1 0NP, tel: 01-226 0137. Tadworth Court hospital, tel: (0737) 357171.*

# nimbus

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DN12



New government regulations published earlier this year allow an increase in overall speed for wheelchairs from 6 km per hour to 12 km per hour (4 to 8 mph) for powered chairs driven on the road, and an increased weight limit from 113 kg (250 lbs) to 150 kg (330 lbs).

These wheelchairs, which are really small powered vehicles, are designated class 3 by the government.

While they may be driven on the roads at 12 km per hour, these chairs must still keep to 6 km per hour on pavements and pedestrian areas.

So far there are few chairs capable of being used at the higher speed. One that is, the Everest and Jennings' Safari, comes in electric or petrol driven versions, and has never had a problem in covering long distances.

Originally designed by Explorer Cars, it was taken over by E & J and has been around for some time now.

Minor revamping has taken place to include a steering wheel rather than tiller steering for easier and safer handling at the increased speed.

The petrol driven Safari is an attractively designed vehicle with full weather protection, including roll down doors and windscreen wipers, for rain sodden days when you have to replenish the larder.

A heater is fitted as standard to ensure that only the frozen foods stay frozen on a cold winter's day, thus offering nearly all the com-

## Fuel for thought

Wheelchair user Ian Younger tries two Safaris, battery and petrol-run



In close competition: the Safari electric wheelchair (left) and the petrol-run model (right).

forts of a car.

Reliability is almost assured as it is powered by a Honda petrol engine using unleaded petrol, driven through a five speed gearbox.

No longer do you have to worry about long hours off the road recharging your chair's batteries. Theoretically this chair has a range of 96 miles on one tank - that is if anyone has the stamina and time to test it.

A word of warning: although the new regulations don't insist on it, to my mind insurance cover

is essential for both the user and the vehicle. But you won't need a driving licence or road tax.

The battery Safari is said to have a range of 30 miles using the optional heavy duty battery pack. This looks promising and if you are concerned about exhaust emissions you won't be polluting the atmosphere.

Its equipment is virtually identical to the petrol version except that it does not have a heater. (A heater would consume too much power and reduce the range considerably.)

### Test drives

The petrol version had been fitted with a hand controlled accelerator/brake and was very responsive. After only a few minutes I was driving at full speed. The engine started first time, every time, as one would expect.

I felt in full control all the time and although I did find the creaking bodywork on the model I tried a little noisy, the engine by comparison seemed reasonably quiet.

The battery version had been fitted with a foot accelera-

tor/brake pedal but in all other respects behaved as the petrol chair but with less noise.

Those of you who read the article on battery powered vehicles (DN September) will know that the weight of the driver can make a great deal of difference. At 13 stones, I was a little sceptical that the battery powered chair would be capable of carrying me anywhere near the mileage claimed for it. My test was over undulating country roads using the standard, not heavy duty, battery pack.

After six miles at top speed the charge meter showed that only 25 per cent of the charge remained.

Both vehicles were very comfortable to drive, although access was a little constricted and could prove difficult for someone with severely restricted movement.

### Verdict

If travelling great distances is your delight, then the petrol chair is definitely for you.

But if you need a chair for shopping, then consider the battery version. The heavy duty battery pack is a must to achieve any great distance.

Both chairs cost £3,500. There is no VAT. Everest & Jennings, tel: (0536) 67661, will put you in touch with local dealers.

"Your rights and responsibilities" is a code of practice for users of 8 mph class 3 chairs, from the Disability Unit, Dept of Transport, 2 Marsham St, London SW1P 3EB.

## Let your Disabled Child ride a PONY

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- Simple to operate and highly manoeuvrable, making it fun for the child.
- Compact and lightweight and strikingly attractive.
- 2 carefully proportioned sizes to cater for children from 4 upwards.
- Accessories available to meet child's needs.



**PONY - The vehicle that lets children be children.**

For a detailed colour brochure, fill in the coupon.

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Care Chair Division, Ortho-Kinetics (UK) Ltd.  
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV13 3XA. (0902) 866166.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

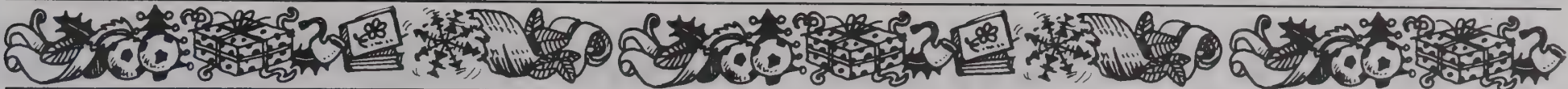
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Amanda Bullion dresses up for Christmas parties. Above left, polyester/satin spotted pyjama top in scarlet or royal blue is elegant enough to wear over ski-pants. The pyjama set, sizes 10-18, costs £29.50 from Marks & Spencer. Above right, polyester/satin double-breasted blouse in rose, cream or teale, sizes 10-18, £19.99, over softly-pleated, black crepe trousers, with simple, two-button fastening either side, £24.99. Black evening bow, £7.99 and velvet draw-string bag, £8.99 (out of sight). All from BHS.

Fashionable big shawl warmth, left, in black, red or dark navy acrylic, £19.99, worn over acrylic "snowflake" jumper in black, dark olive or dark navy mix, sizes 8/10 to 16/18, £14.99. Other good ideas from M & S, not shown: flat, rosette-trimmed satin evening pump, £14.99, wool felt berets, £3.99.



DN's three-page Christmas spread

Shot taffeta and velvet make a formal dress fit for a princess, and it's only £14.99. The skirt is gathered on to a ruched midriff band. Side-zip fastening. Sizes 12-16, from British Home Stores. Necklace from BHS.

MARCIA MAY

If you're getting dressed up, you might want to use make-up too. If so, The Body Shop has a 55-minute tape called *Colour Sense*, which is ideal for blind and visually impaired women, or anyone who doesn't have much confidence in their make-up skills. Made by Barbara Daly, make-up artist to Princess Diana and Jerry Hall, the tape costs £1 and is available in most branches or direct from The Body Shop International plc, PO Box 24, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 71B for £1.60. Branches also have braille catalogues available on loan.



Two practical present ideas are talking scales and a daisy grubber (not shown).

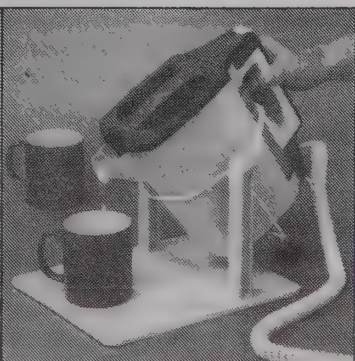
The Talking Scales are a world first for the RNIB. Voice chips read metric and imperial measurements and announce the weight of each amount of food added.

Scales for use by a visually impaired person cost £55 from the Sales Dept, RNIB, Bakewell Road, Orton, Southgate, Peterborough PE2 0XU. From the same address a cheaper present is the Vox Talking Watch, £14.

For keen gardeners, Spear & Jackson's daisy grubber is a very useful weeding tool. The short handled version (27in) costs £10.99 and the long handled version (39in) £11.99. It can be bought off the shelf at Great Mills superstores and by mail order from Boots and Argos stores.



Tug-a-Plug, above, is the brainwave of 14-year-old Martin Briggs from Lancing. His invention, a winner in the 1988 Young Engineers for Britain competition, was designed after watching a family friend struggle with a plug. A single strip of plastic, Tug-a-Plug forms a large handle for people with weak or arthritic hands. 99p plus 25p p&p from Bi-Design, 49 The Lawns, Sompting, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 0DT.



The jug kettle-tipper from Medici (left) takes the strain out of lifting heavy kettles. Suitable for most jug kettles of two to three litres, the tipper holds the kettle firmly in place by a spring. 75 per cent of kettles now sold are jug kettles, so this could make a useful present. £13.05 inc p&p from Medici Rehab, Research Unit, Warley Hospital, Brentwood, Essex.

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DN12





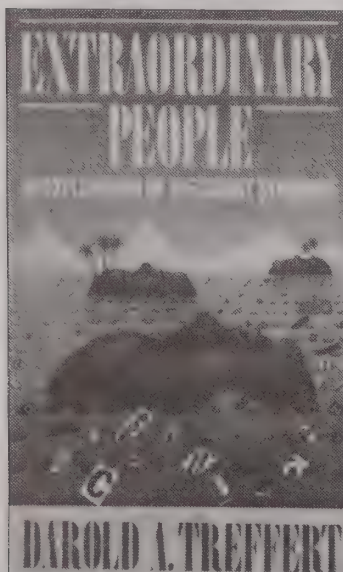
In the (unlikely) event that you are still stuck for ideas, The Celebrity Store can help. It specialises in supplying books, tapes and games by celebrities from TV, sport, radio, theatre and film. Lenny Henry, Madonna, Batman, Dame Edna, Ian Rush, Dustin Hoffman are just a few of the names inside the Celebrity Store catalogue. Send a large (9" x 12") SAE to The Celebrity Store Ltd, PO Box 150, Twickenham TW1 3RF.

If Christmas exhausts you or makes your blood pressure soar, what about relaxing with the GS32 Biofeedback Relaxation System? The manufacturers say you can use the GS32 (not shown) to teach yourself to relax deeply. £47.50 from John Bell & Croyden, the world's most famous pharmacy. Call 01-935 5555. Another good source of present ideas is Boots' *Healthcare in the Home* catalogue. Pick up a copy from any branch. Boots' Portapillo, for example, relieves neck tension by supporting your head. Good for bus journeys to schools or day centres. £4.99.

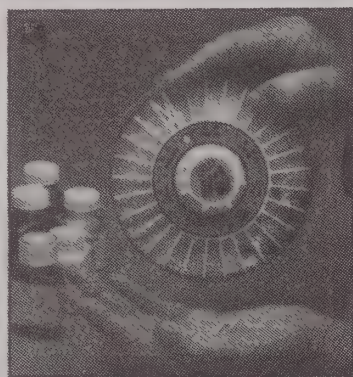


## Extraordinary People: An Exploration of the Savant Syndrome

by Darold A Treffert  
(Bantam, 1989, £12.95 hardback)  
Savant is French word for "person of knowledge", but many of the people described in this book have powers which go



At a special Christmas offer price of £32.95 inc p&p, the Handi-shade will fit any wheelchair with back-support. In red or blue, the cover is washable and the whole shade folds flat for easy transport. A winter canopy will be available shortly. Handi-shade, 14 Valestone Close, Seabrook, Hythe, Kent CT21 5SW, tel: (0303) 39519.



If you have trouble remembering which pills to take when, the Pill Organiser, left, is the answer. Easy to turn. £6.65 from Ways & Means. Phone your order on (0602) 233822. The Pill Splitter, not shown, from the new Chester-Care catalogue, neatly halves pills which are too big to swallow. £3.95 postfree. Phone 01-586 2166/01-722 3430.

beyond ordinary knowing. George and Charles can spontaneously think of 20-figure prime numbers; Leslie played Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 after hearing it once.

Dr Treffert has spent 25 years researching the savant syndrome, which is commonly found in autistic people. He gives a history of the syndrome and the various ways it was diagnosed, and there are three sensitive portraits of savants. The largest section of the book looks at possible medical explanations.

Far from patronising the savants, Dr Treffert says that there is a lot to learn from them about brain power and character. On savants' unexcitability he says: "there is much they can teach us about simplicity and about contentment, two items in short supply in many of us".

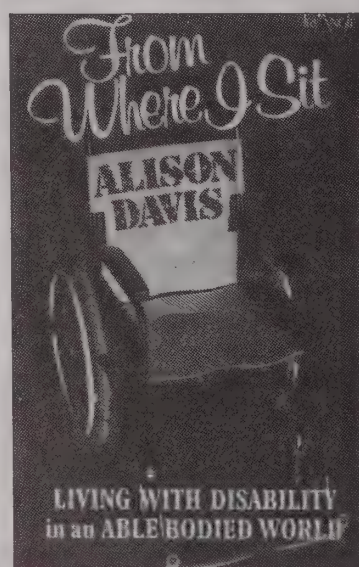
## Access in London: A guide for those who have problems getting around

(Nicholson, paperback, £3.50)  
How do you get from the fifth to the sixth floor of the Barbican? How many of London's football stadiums have wheelchair enclosures?

As well as covering the well-known sites of historical interest,

this guide goes into great detail, based on first hand experience, about most of the places in London where you can eat, sleep or just have a look around.

The guide is not only for Londoners – there is a key to access symbols in French and German, and ferry routes and airports are also covered. But it is not an A – Z and the authors say it should be used with a map or guide book.



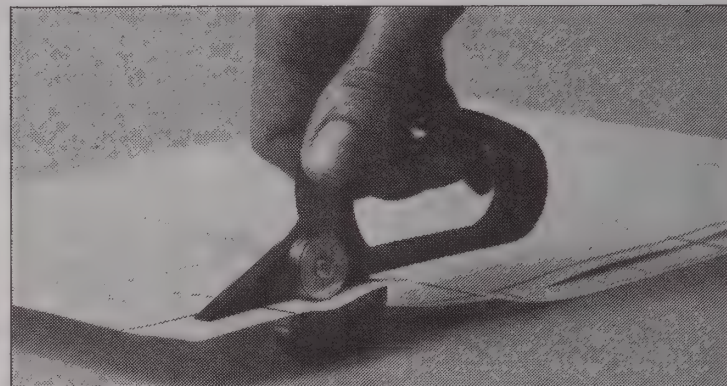
## From Where I Sit

by Alison Davis  
(Triangle, £2.75, paperback)  
Alison Davis has spina bifida and sits in a wheelchair. From there she challenges her readers,

Here at *DN* we modestly think that you could do a lot worse than give a year's subscription to *Disability Now* to one of your friends or relations. It will stimulate, inform, challenge and occasionally even amuse them! With news, views and reviews plus lots of job advertisements, at £6 it's good value for money. All you have to do is fill in the coupon on the back page.



The Back-Rack, above, fastens to your car with a single action, making easy loading for a wheelchair with the minimum of lifting. £125 plus £6 p&p. Call (0325) 284012/3 for details.



A new household cutter, above, that requires no finger movement and very light holding. £7.99 inc p&p from Jecsystem, Freepost, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester LE9 9BZ.

especially Christian ones, to face their attitudes to disability as well as the physical barriers which prevent disabled people from being fully integrated into society.

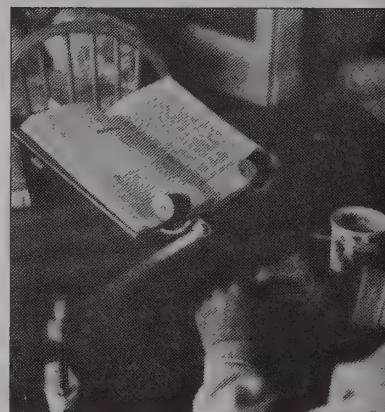
The current concern about abortion underlines, for her, a continuing fear and distaste of disability (she is organiser of the handicap division of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children).

A serious read for anyone who wants to get to grips with the issues of disability, clearly written, but lacks relieving humour.

## Playing Safe: The Parents' Guide to Children's Safety in and out of the Home

by Su Sayer  
(Thorsons, £4.99 paperback)  
There are five and a half thousand deaths every year from accidents in the home, says this book, and it aims to prevent some of them by making parents more aware of possible dangers lurking around the house. Outdoor safety and first aid are covered as well as more serious topics like Aids and child abuse.

Parents should set a good example, says the book, and be aware of dangers to themselves at work and when travelling. Safety awareness can even be fun –



If holding books is difficult, this solution. Clamps to a wheelchair plus £1.50 p&p from J E Hymas, Lane, London NW9 8YB.

## Reviews by the *DN*

some exercises, like getting out of the house blindfold, could easily double as party games.

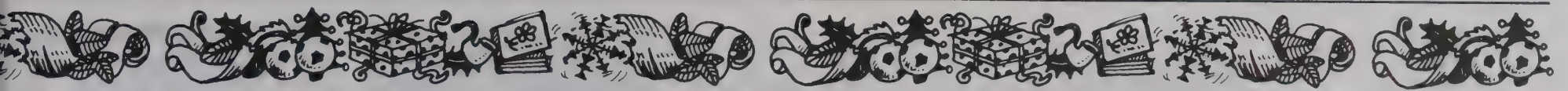
Not just for parents of children with special needs but essential reading for anyone.

## The Spell Singer and other stories

Editor: Beverley Mathias  
(Blackie Children's Books, £7.50 hardback)

These specially commissioned stories, by well-known authors such as Joan Aiken and Geraldine Kaye, all have as their starting point a character with a disability.





Children's Christmas toy offer for *DN* readers. Details below.



Touch pad switch (£27.30, above) for severely disabled children to play with. Toys for the Handicapped. Call 020 20 for details.

**SPECIAL OFFER!** This award winning *Playring* is usually £59.95 but is offered to *DN* readers at £49.95. Originally developed for children with cp, the ring is suitable for children with or without special needs. It won the RSA Medic Design Award 1988 and Best New Product at the The Child and Nursery Fair 1989. From Playring Ltd, 53 Westbere Road, West Hampstead, London NW2 3SP. Mention that you are a *DN* reader.

Other good toys, games and books for children are to be found in the **Child's Play** range. For example *The Helpful Shoe*, not shown, an activity board book, helps children to master laces while having fun with mermaids, kings, dragons and fairies. For a Child's Play catalogue tel: (0793) 616286, or look in your local bookshop or Early Learning Centre.



The Tow Bike, above, is specially designed for disabled children. Around £120, another seat can be added to make a tandem. Orders need to be in by 8 December. Tel: (0455) 213075 for details.

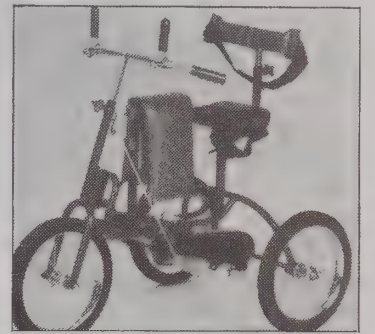


The Small Talk phone from Vtech, above left, has buttons to press to talk to the characters shown who "phone" back when the receiver is replaced. £29.95 from good toy shops. The Push 'n Merry-go-round, above right, has a lovely sound and helps develop eye control. £4.36 from good toyshops.



The Roll and See has balls and rattles inside and encourages children to crawl. £3.99 from Early Learning Centres.

Another bike is the new, improved small chain tricycle from Rifton, right. Has waistband for children with no seating balance. Margaret Gilbert, a Spastics Society OT, says it is very well made and will last for ever. £282.50. Delivery within 48 hours. Tel: (0580) 880626 for details of this and other bikes.



Published in association with the National Library for the Handicapped Child, this cheerfully illustrated book would make a good present for disabled children or their able-bodied siblings.

In a foreword, the Rt Hon Jack Ashley MP warmly commends the stories, which he says show disabled children not as stereotypes but as lively human beings.

## The Bus People

by Rachel Anderson  
(OUP, £6.95 hardback)  
For older children or young teenagers, this book takes an unorthodox, even controversial, approach to its stories about



from the Spell Singer

children with learning difficulties.

The world is seen through the eyes of the children who travel on Bertram's bus, morning and evening.

The stories are funny, readable and unsentimental. The author, who has written around 20 books, has four children, including a son with learning difficulties.

## Have the Men had Enough?

by Margaret Forster  
(Chatto & Windus £12.95 hardback)

"Mum comes in from Grandma's, looking awful. Grandma woke her at one in the morning in a great state of excitement to tell her she had heard there were lovely cauliflowers in the market. She woke her again at half past three to say someone had thrown a bucket of water over her, damned cheek, and Mum had to change the sheets and Grandma. At half past five, when Mum was in the deepest of sleeps, Grandma literally shook her awake."

This is a book for all unpaid carers looking after elderly relatives, the vast majority of whom are women.

Margaret Forster is brilliant on family politics, the different ways members react to the moral

dilemmas senile relatives pose.

"Have the Men Had Enough?" is part of Grandma's regular litany of questions, surfacing through habit after a lifetime of deferring to men. Now, predictably, in old age she is dependent on women for her care; the men want a quiet life.

"Well, I wouldn't mind, mutters Adrian, if I was a woman and at home all day like you, doing nothing, I wouldn't mind at all." Impossible domestic situations are "women's work".

The *Guardian's* reviewer rightly called this novel "a witty and intensely compassionate book".



## Talk to Me

by Sue Brearley  
(Adam & Charles Black, £4.95 hardback)  
A revised edition of what used to

be *Encouraging Language Development*, from Play Matters (the National Toy Libraries Association), shows parents simply and clearly (with colour photos) how language develops and how they can encourage their child to communicate more effectively. It explains the job of a speech therapist and includes the sign language alphabet.

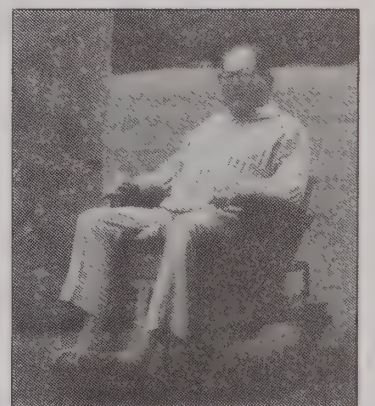
## In the Realms of Gold

by Quentin Crewe  
(Michael Joseph, £15.95, hardback)

"Intrepid" is a word Quentin Crewe would probably dislike intensely when applied to himself, but reading his latest travels in South America – ten countries, 24,000 miles, up the Andes, down the Amazon – all by a wheelchair user, I can't think of a better one.

True, he had young Symon Robinson with him, to drive the Toyota Landcruiser – securing a vehicle in Caracas makes a good story in itself – and to scour the cafes and restaurants of Juliaca, 13,000ft up in Peru, for hot water for the hot water bottle. (It had all been turned off).

But he couldn't have been comfortable a lot of the time. And it's a weakness of the book that Quentin Crewe never lets on about the personal difficulties. We are supposed to forget he is



not on two feet.

One of the few acknowledgements of his disability (muscular dystrophy) and his wheelchair occurs in Colombia when he and Symon are accused at gun point of being "contrabandistas".

"Will he understand my explanation that I cannot get out without help? Or will he consider my immobility as disobedience; an excuse to shoot..."

It turns out that the police mistook his electric wheelchair, batteries and charger for part of a bomb.

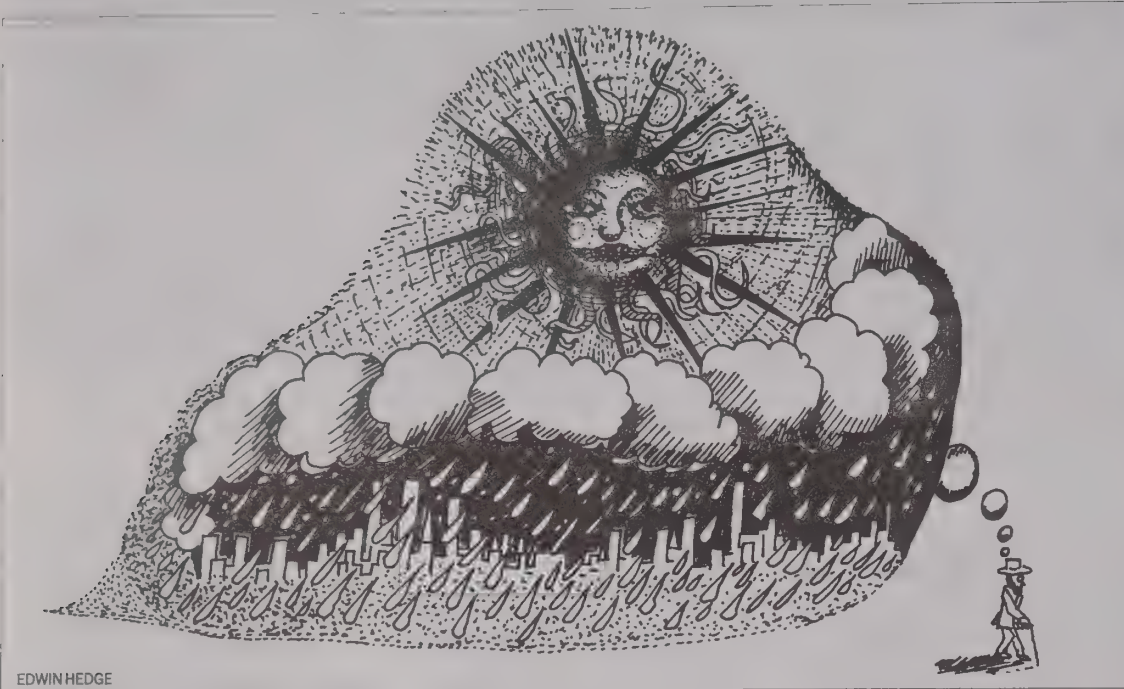
Asked for receipts for all the contraband, Crewe counters: "You show me a receipt for your hat and I will show you a receipt for all this". Outcome: laughter and freedom.

A good read: for the colour, the history, the characters and the perceptiveness.



# The Weather Child

a children's story by Colin Bowman



EDWIN HEDGE

One day, not so very long ago, something very strange happened. A huge clock at the top of a tall tower struck 12 o'clock. On the last echo of the last chime everyone in the whole world over the age of 40 suddenly found that they had their *very own* weather. Everywhere they went, their weather went with them.

Very happy people found themselves surrounded by sunshine and just-happy people had warm breezes wafting around them all the time.

Very miserable people walked around under a dark raining cloud and just-miserable people were half-hidden in a fog.

From this day on it happened everywhere that at midday on their 40th birthday people suddenly found they owned their personal weather. On a 40th birthday morning every birthday adult, whether a father or a mother, an aunty or an uncle, worked very hard to keep happy all the time but this was too difficult for most of them. Not very many new 40-year-olds had won sunny weather at the end of the day.

So in the countryside life was very difficult. On the farms of happy farmers there was plenty of sunshine but no rain to make the crops grow. On the other hand miserable farmers had plenty of rain to make the crops grow but no sunshine to ripen them.

So in the towns little children did not know what clothes to wear. If they passed lots of people on their way to school they could go through rain, sunshine, fog

and warm breezes. If they were very unlucky they might stand at the bus-stop sandwiched between two miserable people.

So what could be done? In one country a rather cruel king decided that everybody 40 years old and older should be killed. Then he realised that if this was done his own little boy and girl would have no grandmother or grandfather. The Queen quietly reminded the King that he was 39 years old!

In another country a King made a law that a happy person had to live next door to a miserable person but this made the happy people miserable and their weather changed. This King's country was always flooded.

And so the world went on until one day a special child was born. His body was weakened by disease but his voice was powerful and his laughter tinkled like the keys of a piano.

Often he was pushed out and about in a wheelchair by his parents and friends. If he saw a miserable man he might say:

"That man is so gloomy he reminds me of the candle on a birthday cake that won't light!"

If he saw a happy lady he might say:

"That lady is so happy she is like the candle on a birthday cake that just won't be blown out!"

So the happy people who met the boy in his wheelchair were happy to hear his jokes and laughter but unhappy that his body was not stronger. The miserable people who met him

were unhappy that he was not stronger but happy to see his happiness and to hear his powerful voice and funny jokes.

Now everybody who had met the special child was half-happy and half-unhappy and all their personal weathers became exactly the same, a mixture of sunshine, rain, light warm winds and, strangely enough, mist, which is much nicer than fog.

It became impossible to tell where one person's weather ended and another's began and soon there just seemed to be one weather. However even today happy people spread sunshine around them and a few unhappy people spread thunder and rain.

Everybody knew the special child had made the world a better place and loved him, but especially the over 40 year olds!

Colin Bowman teaches English at Kamuza Academy in Malawi. The author of three English textbooks, he strongly supports the integration of disabled children into mainstream schools. Before going to Malawi, he taught for 14 years in England. If any readers want to suggest story-lines or experiences which could be worked into stories for young children, Colin would be happy to hear from them, c/o of Disability Now.



## Look out for...

It's your last chance to submit painting or sculpture for the London Disability Arts Forum's exhibition next February. Called "Out of Ourselves", it will be at the Diorama Gallery in central London. The organisers are "looking for work that succeeds in expressing and communicating something of the reality of disability, where the

artist has used this experience to add an extra dimension to their work." The deadline was at the end of November, but LDAF will accept applications early this month. LDAF, The Diorama, 14 Peto Place, London NW1, tel: 01 935 8999.

Unicorn, the children's theatre, has a special festive show, *King Rollo's Stolen Christmas*, until 14 January. There are three wheelchair spaces and an

induction loop. Housed in an old building undergoing renovation, the theatre would like prior notice of visits, particularly from groups. Tel: 01-836 3334.

Atria is a Europe-wide arts and disability magazine. Published three times a year, the next issue is out in December. Subscriptions £6. Cheques payable to Hertfordshire College of Art and Design at 7 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts.

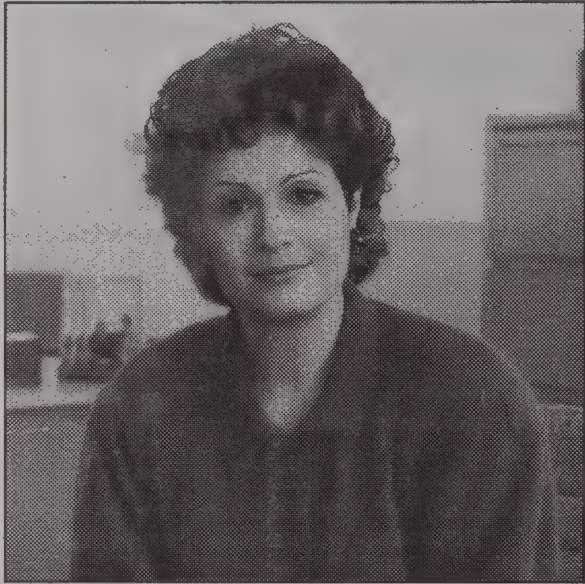
## MUSIC



Comedian Briny Knight's first single is called *Play The Game* and tells of his fight to be accepted as a disabled person. It is in Essex record shops and will be available nationally if enough interest is shown.

*By Word of Mouth* is Kata Kolbert's second LP. Both the major and independent record companies seem unable to come to terms with disabled female singers (Kata has arthritis and uses a wheelchair) but despite their prejudice, her main aim is to get onto vinyl. In the meantime

she is putting out her songs on cassette for only £3. She has been compared to Kate Bush, Nico and Suzanne Vega...to name a few...and says her list of musical tastes is limitless. Cheques payable to Kata Kolbert at 50 Bulwer Court, Bulwer Road, London E11 1DB.



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# naidex: difficult to compare

Janet Larcher reports

The stands featuring microelectronic equipment at Naidex are scattered all over the exhibition. It would have been much easier to compare the various systems, as well as establishing the compatibilities of systems and interfacing devices, if the stands had been grouped together.

Toby Churchill was attracting people's attention by talking through his Lightwriter.

His company has produced a new version called the SL3, very compact, portable and lightweight, with a screen for the user and the listener. Larger keys too. £462, and well worth the extra £50. A keyguard is also available. Tel: (0223) 316117.

More firms are offering devices which give centralised control for equipment in the home. So if you have limited dexterity or mobility, there is now a better

chance of finding a system which suits your needs and pocket.

At least four systems were on display: the **Possum**, tel: (0753) 79234 and **Steeper** systems, tel: 01-788 8165 – free through the DHSS if you can only use a single switch – the **Ridley Electronics** system, tel: 01-340 9501, and **Mipal** (£2,000 plus) produced by RHP Electronics, tel: (0255) 860811.

Hugh Steeper have taken

over the production of the BBC Master extended keyboard from **Viglen**, using it to house their word processor and emulator for the BBC computer.

Both are excellent systems, which can be operated by a single switch. However, the **Viglen** housing also separates the keyboard from the rest of the computer, allowing the keyboard to be positioned wherever is most convenient for easy access, ie at head level for a uniform stick, or on a wheelchair tray.

The housing, word processor and environmental control sys-

tem can all be purchased individually or as a combined unit.

Another firm to have taken over equipment is **Rainbow Rehab**, tel: (0202) 32651. They are now the suppliers of **EvalPac** (from £2,995) and **All Talk** (from £2,295), which are valuable additions to the range of electronic communication devices.

Two cassette players from **Clarke & Smith International**, tel: 01-669 4411, distributed by the RNIB, also have potential for people with limited hand dexterity.

The cassettes drop into the top of a box, shaped rather like a toaster. Volume and tone are controlled by two quite large knobs on the front of the box which slide rather than twist. Switches for on/off, forward and reverse wind, are well spaced on the top of the box.

Two versions are available. One will automatically play two tracks, the other four tracks. £104 and £138 respectively.

A voice controlled system, **Phoenix**, by Aptech, tel: (0661) 860999, was featured on the British Computer Society stand.

The system, while impressive, still needs to be trained to recognise the vocabulary of the user. The user has to repeat each word three times during the training session. £5,395.

More expensive, but also more exciting, is **Oracle**, also from Aptech, which allows the user to just dictate to the computer.

Costing between £8,000 and £10,000, it is as yet unproven. But it shows how what was science fiction five or ten years ago is reality today.

## SEMERC: super work by schools

Another exhibition organised by the North West SEMERC with sponsorship from Simnetts was also taking place in Oldham.

It gave equal status to commercial organisations aiming to sell, schools and departments for children with special needs showing what they were doing, and organisations aiming to help them all to do it better!

It was a delight to see some of the super work being produced in schools and the enthusiasm of the kids demonstrating it.

**Diamik Furniture**, tel: (0532) 443422, were showing an excellent trolley for which many additional modules are available. The main platform/shelf of the trolley can be pulled in and out by the wheelchair users.

A frame to support an expanded keyboard or switch system, so that they can be used by foot operators, will attach to the lower struts of the trolley. A separate pull-out shelf can also be added to accommodate A3 or A4 concept keyboards or other switch systems.

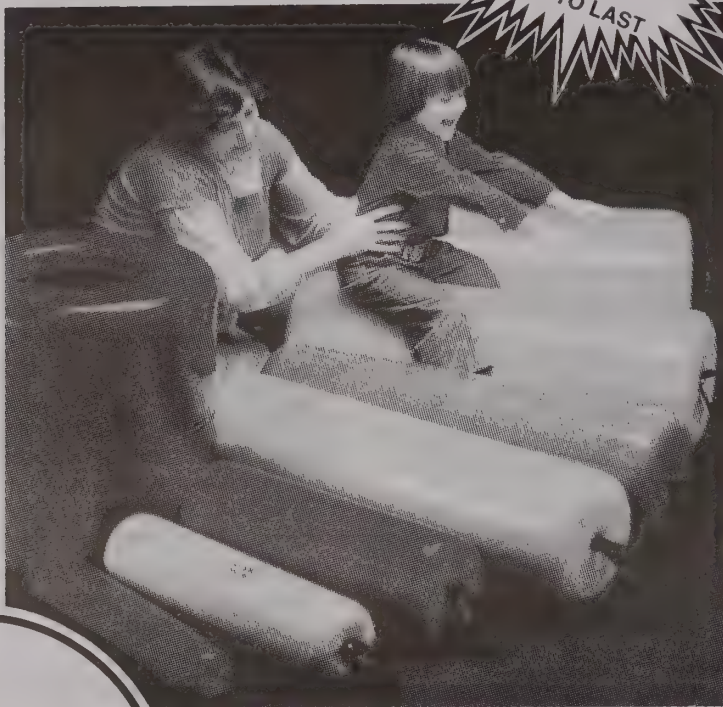
**Acorn**, tel: (0223) 214411, were demonstrating the superb graphics capabilities of the **Archimedes A3000** (from £899, plus VAT and monitor).

*Dr Janet Larcher heads The Spastics Society's Microtechnology Resource Centre.*

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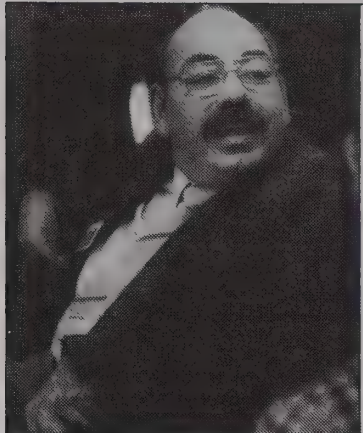
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DN12



## PROFILE

## Glynn Vernon



LEON MORRIS

Most famous, perhaps, for the memorable comment, "My real problems are that I don't have enough money and I don't have enough sex," Glynn Vernon is as frank in the flesh as he was in the award winning video, *Stand up the real Glynn Vernon*.

"Who should have power in The Spastics Society is the most important question to be addressed," he says, "otherwise the Society will be in danger of losing the support of disabled people."

He favours a Society where consumers are in a majority on the Executive Council, but he would spread the net to include the parents of young disabled children as well as adults with cp.

His own election to the Council last month marked a turning point in the Society's history: for the first time a consumer of its services is now a policy maker.

Glynn, 45, went to the Society's Thomas Delarue school. Later he took an Open University degree, worked at the Society's Professional Workshop in Milton Keynes and is now setting up his own computer consultancy from one of the sheltered flats at Neath Hill.

Along the way he has also founded the Socialist Disability Action Group and started a disability advice unit in Rotherham.

Predictably, new technology and communication are subjects he cares about. But most of all he is looking forward to influencing the Society towards giving disabled people more responsibility for their own lives.

He likes the decision to select five disabled management trainees and "fast track" their training. "The Society has been one of the worst employers of disabled people and we've got to start somewhere."

What Glynn does will be keenly monitored by other disabled people. Brian Bowry, also from Neath Hill, gives him a year to learn the ropes before he must share responsibility for all the promises that have been made.

"He's very outspoken, but he's got a good sense of humour. I told him he had three years hard labour ahead of him, and he said it couldn't be harder than marriage."

Mary Wilkinson

Christmas is a family time, but for children with a disabled parent there may be extra tensions and problems if Mum or Dad recently became disabled or the condition has deteriorated during the year.

Several organisations are currently looking at ways in which children and teenagers with disabled parents can be helped and supported. The National Children's Bureau and the Parkinson's Disease Society are jointly undertaking a research project which is examining the experiences and needs of children and young people when a parent has a disability.

The focus will be on Parkinson's Disease, but will have much wider implications for a range of disabilities and chronic diseases which affect family life.

The Publications Committee of HEADWAY, The National Head Injuries Association is preparing a short booklet for children and young people whose parent has had a head injury.

*Never the Same Again* on BBC Radio 4 recently featured a mother who has an inoperable spinal tumour. Sue, her husband Tony, and their two teenage daughters all spoke frankly about Sue's disability. The girls admitted, however, that they probably had more done for them at home than many of their friends did.

Listening to what children and teenagers say is very important. Common requests are for information in an understandable form and more openness and discussion, plus opportunities to share difficulties and negative feelings with someone from outside the immediate family circle.

Claire is in her late teens and she writes:

"My father developed Parkinson's Disease when I

## Share Your Problems

with Margaret Morgan

## Disability: how to tell the children



was quite young. I found it difficult when I was at school and I was embarrassed to talk about or admit Dad's problems. I just used to say he had "retired".

The awful thing that makes Parkinson's Disease such a pain is the fact that the person's personality is taken over by its reactions – and this is frustrating. Sometimes you get a glimpse of Dad in normal mood and it is just so nice, then the side effects of his drugs take their toll and within the space of half an hour the glimpse has gone. So you can't get used to him being in any particular way for any length of time.

It's all very uncertain: sometimes he may be quite well, others quite ill. Having to accept this is difficult." In *Never the Same Again*, Sophie, now 16, remembers how when she was two her mother returned from hospital using a wheelchair. Nina and Sophie had not seen their mother for 12 weeks. Sophie found a photograph of her mother, standing up with her in the garden, which she showed to her family saying, "Here is my Mummy!" She still remembers this as a very traumatic time.

Louise is now 14. She was eight when her mother was severely head injured. These are

Louise's suggestions, which HEADWAY will be using as a basis for their new booklet:

- a booklet should be published which explains the conditions in easy language. It should also prepare the child for visits to the hospital and for when the parent comes home
- the hospital – before the child first visits the hospital explain what has happened. Make sure that the child is not scared of the hospital. To a small child hospitals can be very frightening places which smell funny and have lots of ill people lying in rows. Try to make the visit a day out. If the journey is long, make sure the child has something to read or play with

## A UNIQUE SERVICE!

Lin Berwick, DN's telephone counsellor, herself disabled, can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (04024) 77582.

- the patient's condition – never let the child think not much is wrong. Explain in simple language, then when the child

sees his or her parent it will not be so frightening. Do not expect the child to understand everything. Try not to give the impression that the parent is the same as before. Say there will be differences, but assure the child that however the person looks or acts he/she is still Mum or Dad

- reactions – try to understand the feelings of each child and the different feelings at different stages. A younger child will not really understand what is going on. If everyone is upset and cries in front of the child, he/she will react in the same way, without knowing why. Younger teenagers may not want to be with their parents much anyway, so when one has an accident they may give the impression that they don't mind. But you can be assured that they are probably as upset as you are, but are trying to cope in a different way

- at home, try to spend as much time as you can spare with your child on your own. Do something normal, like cooking or going for a walk, and bring the head injured person into the conversation, perhaps by remembering something you once did as a family. If the child wants to carry on the conversation, encourage this; if not leave it until later. If you push too hard your child might start resenting the head injured person without knowing why.

If you have any comments or suggestions do contact me or Roger Grimshaw, Senior Research Officer at the National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7QE, tel: 01-278 9441. The BBC tape can be borrowed from me, c/o DN.

Headway, National Head Injuries Association, 200 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HX, tel: (0602) 622382.

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WHAT'S ON

**Arthritis training day**, covering medical aspects of the condition, the work of occupational therapists, physiotherapists and the Arthritis Care charity. 7 December in Manchester. Cost £25.00. Details from Mrs B Dickinson, Training Co-ordinator, 4 St Chads Street, Manchester M8 8QA, tel: 061-832 3678.

**Community Care: The Future**, a conference for voluntary organisations on the implications of the Government's Community Care White Paper. London, 6 December, York, 13 December. Fee £30 (concessions £20 and £25). Details from Community Care Project, NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU, tel: 01-636 4066.

**Lesbians and Mental Health Conference** at Wesley House, Wild Court, Kingsway, London WC2, on 9 December. Between £1.50 and £15 according to ability to pay. For more information and an application form send an SAE to Edwina, 1 Arden House, Pitfield Street, London N1 6QD.

**Breakthrough Trust** are holding a one day awareness and basic skills course for deaf people, 13 December in Greenwich. £20. For further details send an SAE to the London Centre, The Hall, Peyton Place, London SE10 8RS, tel: 01-835 5661.

**Club for gardeners with visual disabilities**, meets regularly at the Hackney Adult Education Institute on Friday mornings. For more details contact Jenny on 01-533 2426, or leave a message on 01-809 7737.

I would be pleased to hear from any readers who have information regarding **community based services** for people with a physical disability and in particular, how the processes for consultation and accountability are organised. Write to Barbara Carlisle, Johnson Day Service, Flat 5, Oakbrook View Hostel, Fulwood Road, Sheffield 10.

Librarians responsible for the information needs of disabled people in Derbyshire want to know of **autobiographies written by/about disabled people**. Write to L. Greaves, Chesterfield Library, New Beetwell Street, Chesterfield S40 1QN.

**HELP**  
**Amnesty International** require volunteers for busy finance dept. in international human rights organisation. Some expenses paid. Contact Lucy or Tony on 278 6000.

**Scarborough Area Disabled Drivers** would like to hear from any disabled groups who might be able to help with a survey into holiday camps and villages all over England. The eventual aim is to produce a booklet. SADD, Head Office, Allatt House, 5 West Parade Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, tel: (0723) 354434.

**Disability and Rehabilitation in the developing world.** A non-residential course in London for those who work, or have an interest in this field, 11-15 December. £265 (assistance with fees may be available). More details from Ms M Greenhalgh, IDEA, William House, 101 Eden Vale Road, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3QF, tel: (0373) 827635.

**Access to Cinema for the Deaf**, a debate between deaf community activists and leading film personalities at The National Film Theatre, 7 December. Tickets £2 plus 40p for day membership, available from NFT Box Office, South Bank, Waterloo, London SE1 8XT, tel: 01-928 3232.

**Caring and Community: the Experience of L'Arche.** A conference for professionals working with mentally handicapped people, at Church House, Westminster, London, 5 December. Cost £35 (concessions available). Further details from Michael Gibberd Conferences, 8 Fielden Square, Todmorden, Lancashire OL14 6LX, tel: (0706) 817968.

**Castle Priory**  
**Listening and responding** – to improve lay counselling skills. 15-17 December. £140.  
**Citizen advocacy** – for those wishing to develop citizen advocacy projects. 12-14 January. £145.  
**Communication through music and special needs** – a basic workshop for non-musicians. 15-19 January. £198.  
**Dance drama dynamics with disadvantaged groups** – led by Wolfgang Stange. 19-21 January. £145.  
*All prices include tuition and accommodation, non residence charges available on application.*  
*Further information from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0HE (enclose SAE please), tel: (0491) 37551.*

**Support group for parents of children with muscular dystrophy (Duchenne)** set up for Merseyside area. Regular meetings will be held at Sefton Resource Centre, Kilnyard Road, Crosby, Liverpool L3, tel: 051-924 3426, Contact Liz Lampard (social worker).

Would any establishments for disabled people like to make links with a **special school in Kenya?** A number of schools feel they may like to communicate with similar establishments in the Western World with a view to exchanging ideas and providing a stimulating project for pupils and vice versa. Write to Jill Aynsley, PO Box 81628, Mombasa, Kenya.

**The Spastics Society** needs your comments on its draft "mission statement". The final version will be circulated as a public statement of the society's aims and objectives. If you would like a draft copy please contact Neil Johns, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ.

**The National Information Forum** is trying to compile a list of information services/advice centres for disabled people that operate in hospitals. If you run a service or know about one please let The National Information Forum have details, c/o The Disabled Living Foundation, 380-384 Harrow Road, London, W9 2HH, tel: 01-289 2791.

INFO

**Vessa Award for charitable work** in aid of other disabled people. Set up following Steve Croft's marathon this new award aims to recognise outstanding achievement despite disability. The winner will receive £1000, an award certificate and a Vessa powerchair. Further information from Gareth Williams, GW Associates, 53d Valentines Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 4RZ, tel: 01-554 7512.

**RNIB Calendar 1990** "An Eye for Art" features seven paintings by children with a visual impairment. Size approx. 14 in by 9 in. Cost £3.00 including p & p. Available from Corporate Marketing Department, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6AA, tel: 01-388 1266.

**The new College of Occupational Therapy Headquarters** opened last month in South London. 6-8 Marshalsea Road, Southwark, London, SE1 1HL, tel: 01-357 6480.

**Looking Ahead**, a new video produced by the Multiple Sclerosis Society examines the psychological and physical problems caused by MS. Cost £15.25 from Command Performance Productions Limited, Unit C53, 5th Floor, 108 Westferry Road, London E14 8QB.

**Who Cares?** the national magazine for people in care is aimed at young people, foster families, social work managers, teachers and many others. Further details from 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE, tel: 01-278 9441.

**Lambeth Age Concern** is now able to give cash grants to groups who share their aims and serve the Lambeth area. If you want to apply for a grant your project should deal with either education, sport, mobility, carers or health. Application forms from Age Concern Lambeth, 1-5 Acre Lane, Brixton, London, SW2 5SD, tel: 01-274 7722 ext 2394.

**Footwear for odd-sized feet**, one of a series of leaflets for people with special footwear requirements. Price 80p from the Disabled Living Foundation, Clothing and Footwear Advisory Service, 380/384 Harrow Road, London, W9 2HU.

**The Campaign for Accessible Transport** has produced stickers which supporters can use in their work towards ending segregation on public transport. Stickers available in packs of 20 for a suggested donation of £2.00 and an SAE from The Campaign for Accessible Transport, C/O 14a Greendragon Lane, Brentford, TW8 OEG.

**Helping a Diabetic Person With an Insulin Reaction** is a leaflet people can give to their friends and colleagues at work. Cost 20p plus SAE. Available from the BDA, 10 Queen Anne Street, London, W1M OBD.

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Closing date: 15th December 1989

Please apply to:

The Huddleston Centre,  
30 Powell Road, London E5 8DJ.  
Tel: 01-985 8869



*The Huddleston Centre has an Equal Opportunities policy and welcomes applications from people with disabilities and all other sections of the community.*



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You will need good organisation and communication skills and be committed to challenge the multiple discrimination experienced by people with disabilities.

Information pack and an application (including taped version) from:  
Ms Eva Fielding, D.E.P., The Pavilion, 1 Mund Street, London W14 9LY.  
Tel VOICE: 01-381 5697. VISTEL 2: 01-386 8178.

*We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from any person with a disability.*

Closing date for applications: 13/12/89. Interviews to be held: 18/12/89.

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For further information please contact John Knowles, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 2BA. Telephone 01-686 4433 Ext. 2792.



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For further details and an application form please contact:  
LBDRT, Room 95, County Hall, London SE1 7PB or  
Tel: 01-633 3950 (24 hr ansaphone).

## FIND A FRIEND

DISABLED MAN 44, divorced, lives in Croydon council home with telephone, has apartment in Spain and can travel. Seeks lady friend for long term relationship. All correspondence answered. Box No 256.

LADY LATE 60s would like to write to any disabled person, in the same age group, either a lady or gentleman. I am a quiet but cheerful person. Box No 248.

WOMAN 56, walking disabled, mother of 2 grown-up children, likes eating and general socialising. Requires friendship and companionship of honest male non-drinker. Box No 253.

*To reply to Find-a-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private & Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.*

More Find-a-Friend ads on page 20.

## REGIONAL HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICERS Opportunities in the Management of Change

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The Spastics Society is the major charity providing a comprehensive range of services for people, in England and Wales, with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities. We are now in the process of cultural and organisational change aimed at bringing about significant improvements in the quality of life for the clients we serve.

Our Human Resources function will be at the very cutting edge of these changes. Our practices will focus on the "soft management" values that encourage innovation and entrepreneurial flair in helping our managers and their staff to achieve their personal and organisational objectives. As a result, the learning curves for everyone concerned will be steep but the experiential rewards will be second to none.

You must already have a solid grounding in personnel and training work. Equally, you will have the desire to demonstrate your abilities and commitment throughout your region. Above all, you will share our excitement in contributing to both the creation and implementation of new ideas that will help to realise the potential of our staff and ultimately the users of our services.

If this sounds like your next career move and you would like further information and application details, please contact: Nikki Blythe, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, Tel: 01-636 5020.

Closing date: 11 December 1989.

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LRCC has secure funding through Leicestershire Social Services to provide an information, counselling and support service to women and girls who have suffered sexual violence. We are currently looking for two women to continue and develop the work of the Centre, along side the existing worker.

**Office Co-ordinator/Administrator**  
This post is primarily to organize the day to day running of our busy office, with some involvement in telephone counselling. Essential skills include:- Basic keyboard and numeracy skills, ability to set up and maintain administrative and information systems.

**Counsellor/Co-Ordinator**  
This post is to provide a counselling/support service and to undertake community, outreach, and publicity work, mainly amongst Asian women who have not received a proper share of the services we provide.

Essential skills include: Verbal Asian language skills, experience in supporting other women, ability to maintain and use administrative and information systems.

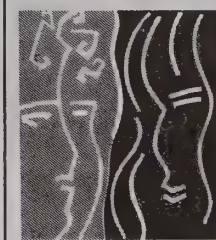
Both workers must have an appreciation of the issues surrounding sexism and sexual violence; Personal knowledge of the issues affecting black, lesbian and differently abled women and how these affect our daily lives.

Applications from women with disabilities are welcome. Although wheelchair access is presently limited, we are prepared to take positive action to improve the situation. For a job description and application form please write to: LRCC, c/o 70 High Street, Leicester LE1 5YP. Telephone Leics. (0533) 514529.

Closing date for return of applications: 5th January 1990.

Section 7(2)(e) of the Sex Discrimination Act & Section 5(2)(d) of the Race Relations Act applies.

Deadlines for January issue: booking by 8 December, camera ready artwork/copy by 13 December.



The Women's Employment and Training Forum is a network of Voluntary organisations, community groups, council departments, colleges and adult education institutes who have an interest in employment and training for women.

This event has been designed to ensure full participation.

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STANNAH GOLD RAIL stairlift. Excellent condition, regularly serviced. Free to collector. Surrey area. Tel: (0883) 43740

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS, scooters, battery cars. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons, tel: 021-357 4965 anytime.

NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS, hand units, Adjustamatic massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods, part exchanges, repairs. C.O.D. Access, Visa accepted. Tel (0460) 61157.

JIGSAWS BY MAIL ORDER. Choose from over 300 Jigsaws inc. Waddingtons, Mandolin Heye. For free catalogue write to The Jigsaw Connection, 1 Main Road, Grindleford, Sheffield, S30 1HN, tel: (0433) 30121.

POT LUCK PEN PALS. No endless questions or silly forms to fill. What we do not know we cannot tell. For details send SAE to Box No A1 Dept D (Juniors under 18 to Box No A101 Dept D), c/o Starlight Room, Chaple Street, Rudington, Notts, NE11 6HE.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

FIND A FRIEND

In future there will be a flat charge of £3 for all Find a Friend ads. We have had to introduce this to help cover our costs. Please send a cheque or postal order, payable to Disability Now, with your ad.

DISABLED MOTHER, 44, wheelchair, own car, interested in history and general socialising. Requires honest, reliable male for companionship, must be able to drive, not heavy drinker. Box No 252.

IF YOU ARE NOT GAY, LESBIAN OR MALE READ ON. Look left, I'm the guy talking in the pub about art or politics. The young woman I'm with is currently otherwise involved. Look left, yes that's my work in the exhibition. The inspiration came from my involvement with horses. Look left, I just walked past you. Sorry I did not want to tell you about my poor sight. Look left again. If you'd like to know more and are between 20 and 30-ish, then reply to Box No 249.

25 YEAR OLD DISABLED GAY MAN in Plymouth seeks the friendship or correspondence of other gay men between the ages of 20-25. I like good music, good food and fun! I have an outward going personality and will try anything once. Please reply. Box No 250.

MICHAEL CHURCHILL, 30, 5 ft 7 in, blue eyes, dark hair, medium build. Happy, independent and loving person with own bungalow. Hobbies include pool, darts, going out and holidays. I am looking for a female friend with similar interests. Box No 251.

I HAVE KYPHOSIS/SCOLIOSIS and Klippel-Feil Syndrome. I am 29 years old, married and have a little boy of 3 yrs old. I would like to write to anyone who is interested in writing, especially people with these disabilities. Box No 257.

JEWISH MAN, MID 50's. Caring for wife in terminal stages of motor neurone disease. Seeks female penfriend in similar situation or recently widowed and wishing to give and receive care and support. Interests include antiques, travel, swimming, walking and driving. Please write. Box No 258.

WIDOW, LATE 50's seeks gentleman, able-bodied or disabled, pref. car owner. Initially for friendship/companionship, outings/holidays. I have brittle bones but am not wheel chair bound. Varied interests inc. swimming, music, movies, dancing, eating out, homelife. Sincerity and sense of humour more important than age. Surrey area. Box 261.

WIDOW, MID 40's, living in South Yorks, partially disabled, non-smoker, intelligent with a sense of humour, interests include, seeing the countryside, driving, gardening, theatre and crosswords. Would like to meet a gentleman of any age for friendship and to make me laugh again. Box 262.

MALE 30, caring and considerate, enjoys theatre, pop music, visits and travel. Wishes to meet similar female aged 25-30 who is paraplegic due to accident. North Yorks/Cumbria. Photo available. Please send your photo. All letters answered. Box No 263.

UNATTACHED LADY 59, Devonian, but living in Sussex, slight walking problem. Would like to correspond initially with similar gentleman, preferably with car, educated and non-smoker. Will share expenses on outings. Genuine replies please. Box No 254.

DISABLED MAN 42, 6 ft 4 in tall, able to walk with stick, enjoys driving, most music and eating out. Own flat. Would like to meet lady, disabled or not, 40-48 years, for lasting and sincere friendship. Box No 259.

LADY 47, walks with the aid of a crutch, lives in South Yorkshire, and would like to meet an intelligent man with a good sense of humour, either slightly disabled or able-bodied. I like the theatre, gardening, cooking and crosswords. Box No 247.

To reply to Find-a-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private & Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.

Greater London Arts INNOVATIVE TRAINING FUND



Offering one-off development grants to stimulate new approaches to arts training in London

Following the identification of gaps and weaknesses by GLA's Training Policy we are looking for innovative approaches in training demonstrating one of the following:

- ★ responsiveness to employer needs for technical or administrative skills
- ★ ways to counter under-representation of sections of the community
- ★ development of training in new creative skills where there is a lack of preferential training provision

Written proposals - clearly stating aims and objectives, evaluation methods, the scheme's uniqueness, planning methods, follow up and future funding, timescale and budget - should be submitted no later than 28 January 1990

Further information available from Greater London Arts, 9 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD

Greater London Arts ARTS TRAINING: EXCHANGES AND SECONDMENTS



Greater London Arts has established a new fund to encourage exchanges and secondments for training purposes

A small number of grants, up to £5,000, are available to support exchanges/secondments to cultural organisations, groups or contexts that will be of mutual benefit to both parties. The scheme's objectives are to:

- ★ open up new channels of cultural debate
  - ★ form new alliances between cultural networks
  - ★ identify new markets for arts activities and products
  - ★ extend knowledge, experience and work of arts practitioners.
- Exchanges and secondments that involve other major European cities, and that promote a greater understanding of contemporary multi-racial and women's cultures in a European context, will be particularly encouraged during 1990/91.

Applications to be submitted in writing using application form available from GLA no later than 29 January 1990

Further information from: Greater London Arts, 9 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD

CITY OF SALFORD



An attractive occupational pension scheme is offered and car leasing facilities are available to everyone. Application forms may be obtained from the Personnel Manager, Salford Civic Centre, Swinton M27 2BN. Tel: 061-793 3507

Please quote the appropriate post reference in all communications. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. Applications are encouraged from suitably qualified and/or experienced disabled persons

CULTURAL SERVICES

DISABILITY ARTS OFFICER

Salary Scale 6: £11,667-£12,462 (Ref 963)

Salford City Council wish to appoint an Arts Officer with experience of disability issues to devise and implement strategies for policy development in partnership with local people and other agencies in Salford and nationwide. We actively encourage applications from people with disabilities. A casual car user allowance is payable. Closing date: 8th December, 1989.

WALTHAM FOREST DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

We are looking for someone with a physical, visual or hearing disability, (registered or unregistered), to fill this important and challenging post in a growing organisation which plays a significant role in the disability movement in the Borough, nationally and in Europe.

ASSISTANT CO-ORDINATOR (ACTIVITIES MANAGER)

£12,579 to £15,993 (inclusive)

(Subject to re-evaluation - we intend to appoint in the upper half of the scale).

You will be responsible for day-to-day management of a programme of thirty short courses and activity groups each week, dealing directly with individual users, sessional staff, volunteers, support workers and transport staff - in order to ensure smooth running and maximum participation by the users themselves. Other duties include transport organisation, committee work, publicity and deputising for the co-ordinator. You will need to be able to relate well to people at all levels and to have experience of staff management and of work with people with disabilities.

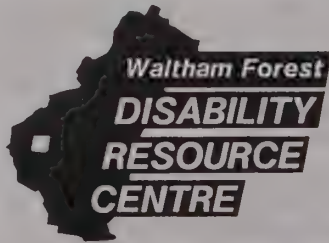
This is an exciting opportunity for someone with commitment and enthusiasm.

For more information and an application form, please apply to: DRC Co-ordinator, Disability Resource Centre, 1a Warner Road, Walthamstow, London E17 7DY

For an informal chat first, please ring Richard Howitt on 01-520 8347.

Closing date for application: Friday 22nd December.

We particularly welcome applications from women and ethnic minority groups.



GARDEN SERVICES MANAGER

£13,872 - £14,736 p.a. inc.

Removal expenses payable in approved cases

Our new garden services unit will provide a clearance, maintenance and improvement service in Waltham Forest for people with disabilities and elderly/infirm people.

We urgently need someone to set up and manage the unit including recruitment of staff who will also be people with disabilities. You will be responsible for liaison with clients, including house visits, work programming, administration, control of budgets, and promoting positive attitudes to disability in the community. You must have administrative experience,

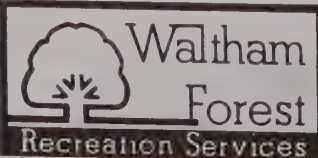
preferably including financial work. Ideally you will have some experience of or have studied horticulture, and/or have worked

(paid or voluntary) with people with disabilities, but this not essential. This post is only open to people with disabilities. Job sharers welcome.

Application forms from: Personnel Section, Recreation Services, Town Hall Annexe (PO Box 416), Forest Road, London E17 4SY. Tel: 01-531 4498 (24 hour answering service).

Waltham Forest is a multi-racial area and we are anxious to ensure this is reflected in our workforce. All applications for jobs are considered on merit with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities,

lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities. Closing date: 8.12.89. Ref. C3571 DN





## WANDSWORTH DISABLEMENT ASSOCIATION CO-ORDINATOR

35 hours, SO1 (£14,682-£15,546 incl)



WDA is a community organisation promoting disability issues in the borough of Wandsworth. You will have overall responsibility for managing and developing a small staff team and offices which include a community meeting room.

You must have: a disability and be aware of disability issues; a commitment to equal opportunities; ability to supervise and manage; ability to represent the organisation.

The post is based in fully accessible premises in Balham, London SW12. WDA is committed to promoting equal opportunities in action.

For information and an application form, which can be taped, please contact by 20/12/89: Staff Vacancy, WDA, 1c Yukon Road, London SW12 9PZ; Tel: 01-675 6521.

Closing date for completed applications: 8th January 1990.

## FOR SALE

**UNWIN QUICK LIFT** portable hydraulic wheel chair platform lift. Folded, 43 inches by 13 inches by 11 inches height. Max. lift 25 inches. Cost £500. Sell £350. Tel: (078729) 744.

**ORTHO-KINETIC** pony scooter for disabled child/small adult. Complete with battery charger, sheepskin foot covers and dual rear wheels. Very good condition. £450 ono. Tel: (0532) 570335.

**BATTERY CAR**, hardly used, condition as new, yellow hood, charger. New £2800. Any reasonable offers. Quick sale necessary - returning to Canada. Tel: Truro (0872) 572150.

**DUDLEY EXTRA** plus outdoor electric wheelchair, includes battery charger, lights and indicators, plus kerb climber. 5 years old. £900 ono. Tel: Colchester (0206) 391879.

**2 CHAIRLIFTS**, left hand assembly £550 and £625. Buyer to collect. Tel (0903) 722532.

**BEC STERLING SCOOTER**. New. Cost £1569. Accept £1000. Tel 01-658 6636.

## WANTED

**SECOND-HAND CHAIRMAN** Metro, B reg or Inter model preferred. Cash available. Tel: (03317) 2702.

**MALE 26**, I would like employment. I am registered disabled (sclerosis) I cannot lift heavy weights. Anything considered. Tel: 051-521 8061, Mr Murphy.

**NIAGRA CHAIR**. Please phone (0903) 722532.

**A CARE ASSISTANT**, living in with a handicapped Open University student. Good salary, excellent accommodation. Driver preferred. Apply in writing to G C Sachar, 44 Plym Close, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 8SX, tel: (0296) 81603.

**URGENTLY REQUIRED**, a vehicle converted to take a wheelchair. Tel: (0260) 278559.

## DEVELOPMENT WORKER

required for project promoting freedom in living for people disabled. Direct experience of disability/"independent living" volunteer work essential. Job sharers preferred. Local authority scale SO1.

Closing date 8th December.

Write for an application form to: Independent Living Alternatives, Fulton House, Fulton Road, Empire Way, Wembley, Middx. HA9 0TF.

## Willow Barns Somerset

Real Country Life in True Comfort Old stone barns converted into cottages & apartments, adjacent to picturesque canal, surrounded by 100 acres of beautiful farmland with surfaced walks and private ponds. 10 minutes from M 5.

Self Catering Farm Holidays

Willow Barns, Newcotts Farm, North Newton, Nr Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 0DQ. Telephone 0278 662783

## COPY EDITOR

Salary £10,290-£12,462

There is a vacancy for a Copy Editor to join the busy Editorial Department at the National Youth Bureau, producing a range of publications for those who work with young people.

You'll be dealing with a range of publications, both large and small, copy editing, liaising with authors and contributing to the marketing of final products.

The successful applicant will have plenty of opportunity to contribute ideas and to benefit from working in a lively publishing environment.

If you have sound experience of copy editing and good general communication skills, and would like further details, please write to or telephone the Personnel Department, National Youth Bureau, 17-23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD. Tel: 0533.471200 ext. 316. Closing date: 5th December 1989.

NYB is an equal opportunities employer. People with disabilities and people from Black and ethnic minority communities are under-represented within NYB and their applications are particularly welcome. All posts are open to jobshare unless otherwise stated.



## GLAD

(The Greater London Association for Disabled People) is an independent co-ordinating agency with a membership of borough based and London-wide disability organizations working to improve the position of people with physical, mental, learning and sensory disabilities in London. We develop our work in consultation with disabled people and their representatives and are committed to enabling all sections of the disability community to participate in and have access to our work at all levels.

Within three years we are to become an organization of rather than for disabled people. We want to build on our reputation for high quality and high profile policy and project work by evolving our structures to ensure that the needs and views of all sections of the disability community in London are more effectively presented and promoted.

We are looking for a disabled person to fill the post of:

## DIRECTOR

S/he will have overall responsibility in the agency for:

- ★ development and implementation of GLAD policies
- ★ liaison and consultation with member organizations
- ★ external representation and communication of GLAD's policies
- ★ overall management of staff and resources

S/he must have experience (paid/unpaid) of:

- ★ promoting, representing and advocating the rights of disabled people and ability to promote GLAD's policies on this
- ★ staff management

S/he must have understanding of:

- ★ the current issues and debates in the disability field
- ★ the structures and workings of voluntary and statutory agencies
- ★ social policy development and implementation

S/he must have an ability to:

- ★ manage in a participative style and promote staff development
- ★ promote, develop and implement equal opportunities in all aspects of GLAD's work
- ★ oversee and co-ordinate the organization's budget, expenditure and to implement fundraising strategies
- ★ programme and monitor future work and development of GLAD
- ★ effectively communicate with a diverse range of people and organizations, internally and externally, e.g., preparation of reports, public relations, individual contacts, media etc.

Previous applicants need not reapply.

Salary: NJC Scale P05 £19,632-£21,042 p.a. plus London weighting of £1,722 p.a. Closing date for applications: Friday, 8th December, 1989. Further details and application form (available on tape and floppy disk) from: GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA. Tel: 01-274 0107.

GLAD is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer and we particularly wish to encourage applications from people from black and ethnic minority groups. GLAD considers that the knowledge required for the performance of the duties of this post can only be attained by a disabled person and therefore only disabled people will be considered. Our offices are fully accessible and we will make every effort to provide for individual needs.

Section 38(1)(b) Race Relations Act 1976 applies to this post.

GLAD receives funding from the London Boroughs Grants Scheme.

Funded by



## Social Services Department

### MANAGER

Wyemead Centre

£15,918 - £18,591 p.a. inc.

(Manager, Grade II to III)

Plus essential user car allowance

This post is restricted to a person with a disability.

We are changing the whole emphasis of day services for people with physical and sensory disabilities in Waltham Forest. A traditional day centre will be closing when the new Wyemead Centre opens in April 1990.

Wyemead will offer high quality individual assistance to help people who may be at a critical time in their lives and need to develop their abilities, gain confidence and learn skills. This complements the borough's innovative Disability Resource Centre in aiming at real choice and direct control by people with disabilities over their own services.

We are seeking to appoint a manager to set up the new centre and retrain the staff team and require someone with direct experience of disabilities who has:-

- the ability to motivate and enable people to take control of their own lives, gain confidence and make choices
- the ability to use a range of techniques to enable people to develop their abilities, and to train staff in those techniques
- some experience of managing a resource
- a vocational qualification in a Social Service or Health field which has entailed a minimum of 1 year full-time course
- experience of 'working' with people with disabilities in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone who wants to see services run in partnership with people with disabilities and is interested in developing resources.

Closing date: 18.12.89.

Ref: P3466/DN

Application form and further details from Director of Social Services, Municipal Offices, High Road, London E10 5QJ. Tel: 01-539 3089 (24 hour answering service).

This post is available for job share.

Waltham Forest is a multi-racial area and we are anxious to ensure this is reflected in our workforce. All applications for jobs are considered on merit with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

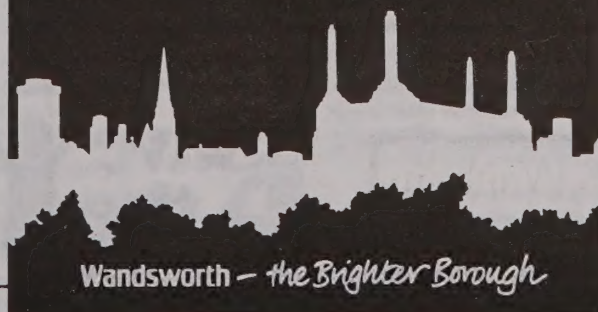
At Wandsworth we are working to deliver equal opportunities and as part of that effort we want to recruit more disabled people onto our staff.

To give extra emphasis to our commitment, Wandsworth, together with 5 other authorities, has just become involved in a unique joint project with RADAR designed to promote employment opportunities for disabled people.

So if you would like to find out more about working at Wandsworth look out for our recruitment advertisements.

# Work for Wandsworth

Recognising your ability,  
not your disability



## START HERE!

Simply look out for Wandsworth job advertisements in your

- ☐ local weekly paper
- ☐ daily paper
- ☐ professional journal

Alternatively call in and see our current vacancies on display every week at:

- ☐ Wandsworth Town Hall
- ☐ Local Council Offices
- ☐ Local Libraries
- ☐ Community Groups
- ☐ Local Jobcentres

And remember, if you have the ability we need, it's **your** application we want. If you would like to make personal contact please telephone Susanne Byrne or Caroline Dempsey on 01-871 6963.



HOLIDAYS

Will access be easy? Are the rooms big enough? Is there a lift? For a trouble-free holiday with all the family try **ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL**, a discreetly adapted manor house set in acres of beautiful grounds. 22 bedrooms – centrally heated throughout – licensed bars – free use of wheelchairs and other aids – mini-bus – half or full board. Tel: (050841) 324, or write to: The Manager, Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel, Ashwellthorpe, Norwich NR16 1EX.

“**HEN YSGOL**” Holiday Homes, Rhoscolyn, Isle of Anglesey LL65 2RQ. Two luxury, fully wheelchair accessible, holiday bungalows situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty with stunning country views. Superb quality accommodation sleeping six. Fitted kitchen with fridge, microwave, washing machine, tumble dryer, oven, grill, hob and much more. Large shower-room with handrails, shower-chair and high-level wc. Tel: (0407) 741593 for brochure and price schedule.

**HAVE YOU TRIED** a Winged Fellowship Holiday in Britain or Overseas? Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 01-833 2594.

**SUNNY TENERIFE**, Los Christianos. As featured on tv and radio, the beautiful “Mar y Sol” Health and Fitness Resort. Purpose-built, totally wheelchair-accessible. Swimming pools, saunas, gymnasium, physiotherapy. Apartments for rent or ownership. I can arrange your flights too! “Brilliant ... Amazing!” says BBC TV’s The Travel Show. Come, see for yourself! Specially adapted taxi service from Tenerife airport. Video (£15 refundable deposit) brochure: Lynne James, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW, tel: 051-339 5316.

**NORTH DEVON** – Self catering cottages, sleeping 4/6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated – linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

**RED CROSS HOUSE**, Inverness, offers respite/care activity holidays throughout the year to disabled people aged between 16 years and retirement age. A 24 hour care facility is provided by the skilled care staff and voluntary helpers. Accommodation is single hotel standard bedrooms. Whether your requirements are for outdoor adventure or something a little quieter, why not contact us for details of what we have to offer. For further information please contact Mike Webster on Inverness (0463) 234939.

If you would like **DN** on tape contact **Gayle Mooney** on 01-636 5020 ext 244.

**EAST PARK P.H. CENTRE**  
Offers a single holiday room for respite/care holiday for any age. A quiet village setting 3½ miles from coast, in the county of Pembrokeshire. The care will be second to none. The P.H. Centre has 12 residents and is registered with Dyfed C.C. Short or long stay vacancies throughout the year. Please write to **Mrs W. Leitch, East Park P.H. Centre, Jeffreyston, Kilgetty, Pembro SA68 0RE.**  
P.S. You may be able to arrange an exchange holiday with one of our residents.

The Regional Arts Association for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk wishes to fill the following post

### ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Within the General and Community Arts Department

A temporary post is available (three months in the first instance). Candidates should be able to offer a high level of secretarial and administrative support. Applications will be especially welcome from candidates demonstrating interest in community arts, especially within the fields of youth and of disability.

The closing date for applications will be **8 December** and shortlisted candidates will be interviewed on Monday, 18 December. Starting salary will be pro rata on an annual scale of £8,431 (to include £250 Cambridge Weighting).

Further details, together with an application form are available from the Deputy Director, Eastern Arts Association, Cherry Hinton Hall, Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4DW.

Eastern Arts aims to be an *Equal Opportunities* employer. Applications are welcome from all people, regardless of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, personal circumstances or disability.

**EASTERN Arts ASSOCIATION**

### GLOUCESTER HEALTH AUTHORITY COMMUNITY CARE ORGANISER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

Salary: Grade 7 A. & C. £14,553 – £17,025

We are looking for an enthusiastic innovative person with excellent communication skills to help to develop a new model of service to physically disabled people in the community.

You will be responsible for liaising with other agencies and staff providing services with the aim of improving co-ordination and provision of information on services. You will be a key member of groups concerned with raising awareness of the problems physically disabled people face amongst professional workers and members of the Community. This post is for an initial 2 year period.

The successful candidate would probably have experience of working with comparable groups of people, have a mature attitude and be self motivating. The post will involve considerable travelling around the county.

**Closing date for applications is 5th December, 1989.**  
G.H.A. is an equal opportunities employer.

Application Form and Job Description available from:  
**Kay Warren, Unit Personnel Manager,**  
Rikenel, Montpellier, Gloucester.  
Tel: Gloucester 395996.

### TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the Advertisement Manager,  
Jonathan Wine, Kingslea Press Limited,  
12 Dock Offices, Lower Road, London SE16 2XL.  
Telephone: 01-252 1362. Fax: 01-237 8019.

cut this coupon out and send it to us and we'll send you a copy of our vacancy bulletin

Hackney Council employs a vast range of people with a variety of skills. And we need additional staff in all areas of the organisation so that we can continue to improve the services we provide for local people. We have regular vacancies for staff in each department, from Social Services to Finance, and work opportunities range from managerial and technical staff to administrators, clerical workers and qualified professionals. If you are interested in finding out more about a career with one of the most innovative Local Councils in the capital, complete the coupon and we will send you a copy of our weekly vacancy bulletin which contains details of all jobs available and how to apply.

Hackney is serious about Equal Opportunities. All applications for jobs are considered on merit, with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities. Job share applications are welcomed with or without a partner.

Drop into our job share at the Town Hall and look around or return the coupon, to: The Recruitment Office, Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA or telephone 01-986 3123 ext 3211 or 3215.

Please send me your weekly vacancy bulletin

Name.....  
Address.....  
Ref: DN12

**HACKNEY COUNCIL**  
Working for local people

we'll send you a copy of our vacancy bulletin

## Development Worker

(STARTRAC)  
Temporary Post for 1 Year  
(Based on Tyneside and covering the Northern Health Region)  
Salary £12,060 p.a. plus car

STARTRAC is a partnership between SCF, Mencap, and the Spastics Society. It is funded by the Tyne Tees Television Telethon Trust to develop a resource within the Northern Health Region to promote leisure and recreation for children, young people and adults with special needs.

We are looking for someone with at least 3 years' experience in special needs - either as a worker, manager, carer or consumer. Your tasks will be to assess need in the different areas of the Northern Health Region and to explore the possibilities for inter-agency co-operation and community based strategies. This will enable us to provide support for carers (professional, family and volunteers) and will also promote the integration of people with special needs into the widest possible ranges of leisure facilities.

You will have to travel widely and make contact with a comprehensive range of agencies and groups throughout the Region, so you will need good communication skills plus the ability to analyse information and present your conclusions clearly in a final written report.

This post represents an exciting opportunity to promote the needs of people with special needs at a time of great change in the statutory services. A person with the right experience could come from a variety of backgrounds. SCF would be willing to negotiate a secondment agreement with a current employer for the successful candidate and aims to provide any physical support necessary for the postholder to carry out the job.

Please write for full details and application form to Julie Cannon, SCF, Floor 2, National Deposit House, 1 Eastgate, Leeds LS2 7LY.  
Closing date: 15th December 1989.  
SCF aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

**Save the Children**

## LAMBETH

SERVICES WELL WORTH DEFENDING

### FINANCE

#### Audit Technician

£14,682-£16,803 pa inc.  
+ Essential Car User Allowance

The Internal Audit Division are seeking an Audit Technician to carry out duties on one of the Audit Groups – initially on the Education Team.

The postholder must be able to carry out Audit projects with a minimum amount of supervision. Projects could include systems audits, probity audits, and assistance on investigations including those relating to frauds. The postholder must be able to demonstrate good verbal and reporting skills, and be able to demonstrate supervisory skills where required. The post will be attached to one of the four audit groups in the Division. The postholder must also demonstrate knowledge and understanding of an Equal Opportunity Policy.

Completed application forms must be received by **8th December 1989.**  
Ref. F95\*

Preferably telephone 01-274 7722 ext 2534 for an application form, or write to: The Personnel Officer, Directorate of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth, Olive Morris House, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2.  
Closing date: 1st December 1989.

Preferably telephone for an application form  
Always quote the correct reference number  
\* POST SUITABLE FOR JOB SHARE

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, responsibility for children or dependents and from lesbians and gay men. Applications are particularly welcomed from people with disabilities as they are under-represented among the Council's staff.

**Well worth working for.**



**ARTHRITIS CARE**  
*Action for People with Arthritis*  
**DIRECTOR OF APPEALS AND  
PUBLIC RELATIONS**



ARTHRITIS CARE is a national voluntary organization providing support and welfare services to people with arthritis directly and through a network of 450 branches.

We seek a Director with drive, enthusiasm and ideas about raising money to head a major new department responsible for fund raising, sponsorship, public and media relations, editing a quarterly newspaper and other publications. This is a new and challenging post reporting direct to the Chief Executive. Experience of management and in at least one of the areas of work of the new department is essential.

**Salary up to £18,000. 35 hour week (flexible hours).**

Access to the office is by a few steps. There is a lift inside.

**Send cv by 4 December 1989 to Mrs Jean Gaffin, Chief Executive, Arthritis Care, 5 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7ER, from whom further information is available (Tel: 01-235 0902).**

**Moving House?**  
Any change to your *DN* address label will be handled quicker if you send details direct to the Circulation Manager, Gayle Mooney, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ tel: 01-636 5020, ext. 244. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR POST CODE!

**GREATER MANCHESTER COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE**  
Require a  
**DISABILITY TRAINING PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR**  
**Salary £11,667**  
This post is initially funded for one year.  
Further details and application form available from GMCDP, 11 Anson Road, Manchester M14 5BY.  
**ONLY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED APPLY**  
Closing date for applications - Wednesday 3rd January 1990

**CO-ORDINATOR**  
**£12,805 to £13,835 (inc LW)**

London Taxicard User Association are looking for a Co-ordinator to work in their office, (a no smoking office) based in Wandsworth.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running and general administration of the Association, with direct responsibility to the Management Committee.

He/she **MUST** be able to work on own initiative and have experience of working with people with disabilities. Knowledge of transport schemes for disabled people is desirable.

*LTUA is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and particularly welcomes applications from people with disabilities.*

For an application form and job description, please write, enclosing CV, to: **LTUA The Business Village, Broomhill Road, London, SW18 4JQ. Mark envelope ref/CO/1.**

Closing date 12 January 1990. Interviews to be held week commencing 22 January 1990.

**Personnel Officer –  
Equal Opportunities**

**£15,570-£19,137 inclusive**

**DISABILITY ISSUES – A POSITIVE POLICY**

Working for the Equal Opportunities in Employment Section your role is to improve Council job opportunities for people with disabilities by providing advice on recruitment methods/procedures and facts about disability issues.

This is a challenging role demanding close identification with both the needs of people with disabilities and the discrimination they face in employment. In addition

- you must fully understand the employment discrimination that faces people with disabilities; black and other ethnic-minority applicants; women; lesbians and gay men.
- be able to manage change and persuade others to make changes

We believe that the skills needed for this post can best be offered by disabled candidates. Accordingly, only disabled candidates will be considered for this post.


The details of this job are also available on Audio Cassette.

**For details telephone 01-862 5922 (24 hour answer service) quoting ref: PD/46/43. Director of Personnel, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow TW3 4DN. Closing date 8 December 1989.**

*Job Sharers Welcome*



**Where people come first**

 **Policy and Administration  
Department**

**DISABILITIES AND PENSIONERS UNIT**

**Disabilities and Pensioners Co-Ordinator**  
**P03 – £18,327 – £19,809 (inclusive) (Ref. DN/1/1226)**

The Council has established a Disabilities Unit in the Policy and Administration Department to advise and support service departments in achieving corporate priorities with regard to meeting the needs of disabled people in employment and service delivery.

We are looking for a Co-Ordinator to lead the central Disabilities team in implementing the strategy for people with disabilities.

**Pensioners Support Officer**  
**S01 – £14,544 – £15,408 (inclusive) (Ref. DN/1/1227)**

The person appointed to this post will advise members on issues affecting pensioners in the community. You will develop procedures which address these needs Council-wide. It will be necessary to support the Pensioners Forum to identify and articulate its needs.

**Disabled applicants are encouraged to apply.**

We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities.

We oppose discrimination based on age (up to 65), class, unrelated criminal convictions, culture, responsibility for dependents, marital status, nationality, race, religion and trade union activities.

We welcome applications from women, people from black and ethnic communities, people with disabilities, lesbians, gay men, people for whom English is not their mother tongue and unemployed people.

All registered disabled applicants will automatically be shortlisted.

Telephone ☎ 01-200 0200 (24 hour service) for an application form, or write on a postcard to: The Personnel Officer, London Borough of Southwark, 25 Commercial Way, London SE15 6DG.


Please quote appropriate reference number and job title.

Last date for receipt of completed Application Forms: 15/12/89.



**ilea** *Working in  
Education*

Responsibility for education in Inner London transfers from the ILEA to the Inner London Boroughs on 1.4.90. Staff employed at schools and colleges at that time may transfer to the successor borough by statutory order, maintaining their ILEA terms and conditions. The transfer of other staff is still under discussion, but up to date information will be provided in a letter supplied with every application form.



**For people with disabilities and caring,  
understanding able bodied persons  
Ladies should not be shy of applying!**

**All enquiries to: HANDIDATE**  
**The Wellington Centre**  
**52 Chevallier Street**  
**Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB**  
**Telephone: (0473) 226950**

**LAMBETH AEI**  
Strand Centre, Elm Park,  
SW2 2EH. Tel: 01-671 1300.

**Lecturer/  
Education  
Co-ordinator  
Disability**  
**£9,786-£16,674 inc.**

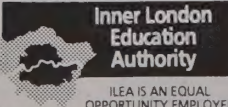
Lambeth ACCORD is a charitable company and is part of an established network of European Community projects; its aim is to promote the social and economic integration of disabled people in Lambeth.

Applications are invited from people with teaching experience to join a team of co-ordinators working at policy level to improve the level of co-ordination of services to disabled people in the borough of Lambeth. Ensuring the active participation of disabled people in the policy making process is an essential component of the co-ordinator's role.

The successful candidate will be appointed to the teaching staff of Lambeth AEI and be seconded to Lambeth ACCORD. S/he will work closely with the Head of Special Educational Needs at Lambeth Institute.

**Applications from the  
Appointment Secretary at the  
above address. Please quote  
Ref: 29.**

**Closing date; 4th Dec. 1989.**

  
**Inner London  
Education  
Authority**  
ILEA IS AN EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**Disabled  
not  
Disqualified**

Channel 4 is known as a station which pioneers innovative programmes. Our contact with people with disabilities has made us aware that we are missing a valuable source of talent and ability and we are determined this will change.

If you have a disability and are keen to develop a career in television, we can offer you two possible entry routes.


The first is at our centre of operations in London's West End. Opportunities exist to join a variety of departments where the roles range from engineering and transmission to accounting, presentation, secretarial and administrative.

The other choice open to you is a place on a two year training programme in the independent sector funded and managed by Channel 4. This combines formal college training with placements nationwide in the independent

production companies who make our programmes. The course will provide you with the grounding necessary for a potential career in television in production areas such as camera, sound, editing or research.

Because television is such an interesting and rewarding field to work in, it is very competitive. Whilst we want you to be aware of this, we also want to assure you that being disabled will not disqualify you from success at Channel 4.

Contact Suzanne Jackson for further information and an application form, at: The Personnel Department, Channel Four Television, 60 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2AX. Tel: 01-927 8473. MINICOM 01-927 8403.

 *Channel 4 is an equal opportunities employer and applications from minority groups are particularly welcomed.*

**CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION**



# Future for free passes uncertain

London Transport free travel permits for disabled and elderly people will be issued as usual next year – but their future still hangs in the balance.

The London Committee on Accessible Transport has decided that 1990-1991 passes will be issued as normal.

The passes take up 10% of the boroughs' total social services budget.

But money-saving schemes will be considered in January after consultation with groups such as the Greater London Association for Disabled People and Age Concern.

These include: an administrative charge to cover the issue cost of the passes, introducing a flat fare on the underground, and

changing the earliest time the passes could be used from 9am to 9.30am.

Even if a charge of £5 was made on each pass, the saving for all the boroughs would be only £11 million, out of a total budget of £100 million.

Kenneth Kelling, of Age Concern Greater London, described the possible administration charge as "punitive" because money would be saved through people not applying for passes rather than the charge itself.

"It's unreasonable to expect us to pay for a scheme which has got statutory backing," said Nick Lester of the Association of London Authorities. "The Government has got to take some action."

Disabled groups or individuals wishing to respond to the plans should contact the London Committee on Accessible Transport, 1/15 King St, London W6.

★ Employees of London Transport's Dial-a-Ride service, for people who cannot use public transport, held two one-day strikes last month and picketed LRT's central London offices.

They are campaigning for an 8½% across the board increase, whereas LRT has offered a 7¾% differentiated rise. Leaflets telling Dial-a-Ride users how to support the campaign are available from Southwark DaR, c/o Bob Ruthven, 42 Braganza St, London SE17 3RJ.



Having a ball. Hounslow council's vice chair of Equal Opportunities, Elizabeth Ball, with children at Hounslow's Voluntary Action Centre's new creche. It has weekly sessions where able-bodied and disabled children play together.

# Campaign for access to medical records

The Campaign for Freedom of Information has launched a new campaign for legal access to medical records.

It has drawn up an Access to Health Records Bill, which it hopes will be adopted as a private member's bill by one of the MPs who came high up the private member's ballot, held after the Queen's speech.

The bill is being championed by a three-man, all-party team of MPs: Archy Kirkwood (SLD), Steve Norris (Con) and Jeff

Rooker (Lab). It is expected to have widespread support.

In a survey of 1,085 GPs, 80 per cent said they would welcome or not object to such a right.

The Campaign wants to iron out the present anomaly, that, any patient can see his or her records if they are kept on a computer, but cannot see them if they are kept on paper.

The Access to Health Records Bill would give people a chance to see, copy and correct, if necessary, their own health records

and would provide a safeguard against unfair comments.

Some comments on records include: "Thank you for sending up this patient. He is not much good except as cannon fodder"; "I've seen the patient, I've seen his wife, I've seen his two kids and I've seen their pet rabbit and in my opinion the most intelligent of the lot was the rabbit".

Individuals already have the right to see their education, housing and social services records.

# Reprieve for Care Search

Care Search, the helpline which has details of all residential accommodation for mentally handicapped people, has been saved from closure thanks to donations from industry.

The unique computer service was originally staffed by people on the Manpower Services Commission's Community Programme. This ended in August 1988.

After an article on *The Inde-*

*pendent's* health page, industrial management company, Tomkins, stepped in with a pledge of at least £28,000 to keep Care Search going for another two years.

Shell, the TSB Foundation and Nationwide Anglia Building Society have also made contributions.

Care Search, tel: 01-847 3971.

## Still only £6 a year!

# DN Britain's leading disability newspaper

- is bigger and better after a year on subscription.
- more pages
- more job ads
- more colour
- more news and information

If you are a disabled person, a parent or a professional, DN is essential reading. Don't miss the coming year. Subscribe by filling in this form and we will send you your very own DN pen.

Individual copies £6 Organisations/local authorities £10 Overseas readers £10  
Multiple copies annually: 10-50 copies a month, £75 ; 51-100 copies, £100

### DISABILITY NOW ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION Ref:

Please return this form to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ with your remittance made payable to THE SPASTICS SOCIETY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Disability and/or profession \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick ☐ Individual £6 ☐ Organisation £10

☐ Overseas £10 (Sterling) ☐ Disabled on low income, free.

☐ Multiples: \_\_\_\_ Copies £ \_\_\_\_

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☐ A donation towards costs £ \_\_\_\_

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Please pay to the account of The Spastics Society (12729280) National Westminster Bank Plc, Euston Centre Branch (60:50:03) London NW1 3BA the sum of

£ \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ Amount in words)

on \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_ and thereafter on the same day each year until further notice.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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QUOTE REF.

**DN**

Please ensure that all parts of the form are completed and any alterations initialled. Disability Now is a non-profit publication. Receipts on request. Sorry, no refunds.